



Tiger Woods tips his cap to the crowd after losing to Thomas Bjorn of Denmark, in 19 holes during the first round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

See Aruba Today Sports

Obama accuses Cuba



By PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press

HAVANA — U.S. President Barack Obama denounced the Cuban government Wednesday for harassing the mother of a political prisoner who died after a long hunger strike, and said her treatment and the detention of other dissidents stood as evidence of the island's poor human rights record. The statement came as a pro-government crowd in Havana threw eggs and shouted insults outside a home where the Cuban opposition group the Damas de Blanco — or Ladies in White — were marking the one-year anniversary of the death of Orlando Zapata Tamayo, who passed away following an 83-day hunger strike. A leading Cuban human rights leader told The Associated Press that at least 46 opposition activists had been detained across the island Wednesday, including another well-known hunger striker, Guillermo Farinas.

Continued on Next page

Oil prices hit \$100 per barrel

Aruba Today Business Page 8 & 9



Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, February 24, 2011



G8 File Photo

Obama tells World to unite against Libya

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama told the world Wednesday to unite to hold Libya accountable for a vicious protest crackdown, stiffening a US response to the crisis that critics had cast as too mild.

In his first televised response to Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi's decision to unleash vengeance on demonstrators, Obama reached out to US allies and promised to deploy a "full range of options" to halt "outrageous" bloodshed. Obama spoke as officials said that Washington was considering fresh sanctions and other steps against Libya, and as political pressure mounted on his administration for a more activist response. The administration's careful previous line on violence that a former Libyan minister said had killed 1,000 people,

appeared to be dictated by fears that American diplomats and citizens in Libya could face reprisals.

But by late Wednesday, a US-chartered ferry with a capacity of 575 passengers was riding out bad weather in Tripoli harbor before casting off on an evacuation mission to Malta.

"The suffering and bloodshed is outrageous, and it is unacceptable," Obama said at the White House.

"So are threats and orders to shoot peaceful protesters and further punish the people of Libya. These actions violate international norms, and every standard of common decency. This violence must stop."

Obama defended his administration against claims that its response to the violence, the latest wave of unrest crashing across the Middle East, had been too

tempered.

"Over the last few days my national security team has been working around the clock to monitor the situation there and to coordinate with our international partners about a way forward," he said. But the president did not mention Libya's ruthless and unpredictable leader Kadhafi, who has ruled for decades and frequently defied the United States, by name.

Seeking to corral international action on Libya, Obama said that in such a volatile situation, it was "imperative" for nations to speak with one voice. He said he would dispatch Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to a ministerial-level meeting in Geneva on Monday of the UN Human Rights Council.

"Like all governments, the Libyan government has

a responsibility to refrain from violence, to allow humanitarian assistance to reach those in need and to respect the rights of its people," Obama said. □

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OBAMA - CUBA*Continued from Front Page*

Many of those detained were quickly released, but Farinas remained in custody late Wednesday afternoon.

Obama said Zapata's "selfless and tragic death" had "galvanized the world's attention to the ongoing mistreatment of those unjustly held by Cuban authorities."

"The Cuban people must know that their suffering does not go unnoticed and that the United States remains unwavering in our commitment to defend the inalienable right of the Cuban people to enjoy the freedoms that define the Americas and that are universal to all human beings," he said.

There was no immediate reaction from Cuba to the U.S. leader's statement, but it was sure to be met with anger and indignation. Relations between Washington and Havana have been frigid for decades, most recently over Cuba's decision to seek a 20-year jail term for a detained American subcontractor that officials here accuse of spying. □



A U.S. Coast Guard boat patrols the water near the space shuttle Discovery in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011. The space shuttle Discovery is scheduled to lift off Thursday afternoon on its final voyage, an 11-day mission to the international space station.

Associated Press

NASA: All looking good for Thursday shuttle launch

MARCIA DUNN, AP

Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA moved closer Tuesday to sending space shuttle Discovery on its final voyage after a nearly four-month delay.

Shuttle managers said the countdown is going well. What's more, there's an 80 percent chance of good flying weather Thursday. Launch time is 4:50 p.m..

This will be the 39th flight for NASA's oldest surviving shuttle. Discovery first rocketed into orbit in 1984. This time, Discovery is headed back to the International Space Station. It will drop off a humanoid robot as well as an oversize closet full of space station supplies.

A veteran crew of six will be on board. One of the two spacewalkers — Stephen Bowen — joined the team just last month. He's substituting for astronaut Timothy Kopra, who was injured in a bicycle crash.

All six are eager to get going.

"Just landed after some T38 (trainer jet) flying around the Cape. A little g (gravity) loading before launch. Beautiful!" astronaut Nicole Stott said in a Twitter update Tuesday morning.

Discovery should have been finished flying by now and undergoing the necessary preparations for eventual museum display. The delay was caused by cracks in a part of the fuel tank that holds instruments but no fuel. Discovery had to be moved off the launch pad and back into the Vehicle Assembly Building for the unprecedented repairs. A hydrogen gas leak also needed to be plugged.

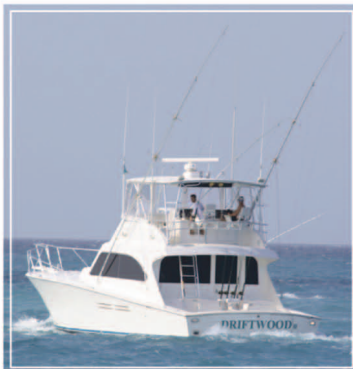
The fuel tank is now "stronger than ever," NASA test director Steve Payne told reporters Tuesday. □

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In New York

Shawna Forde sentenced to death row



NEW YORK — Shawna Forde, the anti-immigrant zealot convicted of killing a 9-year-old girl and her father, was sentenced to death by a Tucson jury today.

Terry Greene Sterling on Forde's abusive past and the wingnuts who call her a martyr.

For three days, a female Minuteman-turned-killer sat stonily in a Tucson, Arizona, courtroom as her lawyers fought to save her life by portraying her as an impulsive, detached, foolish narcissist who could not overcome her abuse-ridden childhood.

They argued that Shawna Forde's early years had been so traumatic that she should not be put to death for masterminding a 2009 home invasion in which 9-year-old Brisenia Flores and her father Raul were slaughtered on the Arizona border.

But in the end not even Shawna Forde's childhood history, marked by repeated instances of sexual and physical abuse, neglect, and abandonment fueled by religious fanaticism, could save her. □

In Washington

Obama drops defense of anti-gay marriage law



WASHINGTON — In a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said it will no longer defend the constitutionality of a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

Attorney General Eric Holder said President Barack Obama has concluded that the administration cannot defend the federal law that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman.

He noted that the congressional debate during passage of the Defense of Marriage Act "contains numerous expressions reflecting moral disapproval of gays and lesbians and their intimate and family relationships precisely the kind of stereotype-based thinking and animus" the Constitution is designed to guard against.

The Justice Department had defended the act in court until now.

The move quickly drew praise from some Democrats in Congress but a sharp response

from the spokesman for Republican John Boehner, the House Speaker.

"While Americans want Washington to focus on creating jobs and cutting spending, the president will

have to explain why he thinks now is the appropriate time to stir up a controversial issue that sharply divides the nation," said Boehner's spokesman Michael Steel.

Gay groups, which had long pressured the administration to take a step like this, were pleased.

Ron Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called the policy change "a tremendous step toward recognizing our common humanity and ending an egregious injustice against thousands of loving, committed couples who simply want the protections, rights and responsibilities afforded other married couples. We thank the Obama administration."

Obama's move may position

him politically at the forefront of rising public support for gay marriage.

Polling results can vary rather significantly depending on what words are used to describe gay marriage, but there is a gradual trend in public opinion toward more acceptance of gay marriage.

An Associated Press-National Constitution Center Poll conducted last August found 52 percent of Americans saying the federal government should give legal recognition to marriages between couples of the same sex, while 46 percent said it should not. In polling by ABC News and the Washington Post, support for the legalization of gay marriage has climbed from 37 percent in 2003 to 47 percent in February 2010. □

Sexual predator gets 248 years

NEW YORK — For decades Ed Foulk used sleepovers, theme park trips and Ferrari rides to prey on young boys, including his adopted son. Christine Pelisek on how a serial sex abuser was finally stopped and punished.

In early September 2009, Rick W., an area director for a northern California provider of healthcare personnel, was making calls in Napa Valley to drum up business for his company. Having 40 minutes to kill before his next appointment, he made a spur-of-the-moment decision to stop by Napa State Hospital. Despite having no appointment, he was hoping the director of nursing would



squeeze him in.

Rick drove his blue Volvo 940 turbo sports car onto Napa State Hospital's sprawling grounds, past cottage-style bungalows, a defunct post office, and dilapidated employee lodgings some of which had old signs reading, "single nurse's home" and

"married nurse's home" to the administration building. Five minutes later, he was standing in line at the front desk. It was then that he noticed a man who looked to be in his early 60s, dressed in a wool vest and bow tie, walking down the hallway. The man glanced in Rick's direction before ducking into an office. A short time later, the man reappeared, then stepped out of view again. Rick was immediately struck with the feeling of déjà vu. Why did the man look so familiar?

Overwhelmed with curiosity, Rick asked a nurse who the man was. Ed Foulk, she responded the hospital's executive director. □

U.S.A decades behind world on parental leave



NEW YORK — The United States is decades behind the rest of the world in parental leave policy, a Human Rights Watch report said.

Of the 190 countries studied in the report, 178 guaranteed paid leave for new mothers and nine were unclear about their maternity policies. Just three countries clearly offer no legal guarantee of paid maternity leave: Papua New Guinea, Swaziland and the United States.

"Being an outlier is nothing to be proud of in a case like this," said Janet Walsh, deputy women's rights director of Human Rights Watch and the author of the report.

"The U.S. is actually missing out by failing to ensure that all workers have access to paid family leave," she said. "Countries that have these programs show productivity

gains, reduced turnover costs, and health care savings. We can't afford not to guarantee paid family leave under law - especially in these tough economic times."

The report, which also includes interviews with 64 American parents, examines the financial, emotional and medical impact of having inadequate or nonexistent medical leave and inflexible employers.

The U.S. lacks both paid maternity leave and accommodations for breast-feeding mothers, but has more than its share of workplace discrimination against new parents, the report said.

"Around the world, policymakers understand that helping workers meet their work and family obligations is good public policy," Walsh said. □

Newly elected

Cuomo popular despite budget woes

NEW YORK — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, confronted like most U.S. governors with a severe state fiscal crisis, has widespread support from voters for his job performance and even stronger support for his approach to the budget, according to a poll released.

While voters across the board approve of the job Cuomo is doing, those in the traditionally more conservative upstate New York voiced the strongest support for the liberal governor, according to the Quinnipiac University poll, taken six weeks into the newly elected Democrat's administration.

It found 63 of upstate voters approve of his job performance, compared with 53 percent in New York City.

"The political and geographical pattern has a Republican look," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "He does best upstate, better than in the city or suburbs."

Overall, Cuomo got 56 percent approval for job performance. Women and African Americans gave him lower marks, with 52 percent and 47 percent voicing approval, respectively.



Having proposed laying off nearly 10,000 state workers and cutting billions of dollars from education and Medicaid to address a \$10 billion deficit, Cuomo got a 57 percent approval rating of his budget performance, with the strongest support from men and independents. Voters strongly supported proposed cuts for state workers, with wage freezes, furloughs and reduced pensions for new state employees getting a collective thumbs up.

But 76 percent opposed his plan to cut \$1.5 billion from education and 64 percent opposed his proposals to trim \$1 billion from Medicaid. □

Supreme Court allows lawsuits over seat belts

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that federal regulations setting vehicle safety standards do not bar lawsuits seeking damages from automakers for installing lap-only seat belts.

The unanimous ruling held that a California lawsuit against Mazda Motor Corp over a fatal 2002 collision involving a 1993 Mazda minivan could proceed. A

passenger sitting in a rear seat and wearing a lap-only seat belt was killed.

The lawsuit by the family of the passenger, Thanh Williamson, claimed that the minivan was defectively designed because it lacked a lap-and-shoulder seat belt for the rear seat. Mazda said it complied with federal safety regulations in effect at the time and that an appellate court in California correctly ruled the product liability lawsuit could not go forward. The Supreme Court overturned the appellate court ruling.

Justice Stephen Breyer said in the court's opinion that the federal safety regulation does not preempt state tort lawsuits claiming manufacturers should have installed lap-and-shoulder belts, instead of lap-only belts, on rear inner seats. The ruling adopted the position argued by the Obama



administration, which said the California and other courts have interpreted federal law too broadly in barring lawsuits against automakers that put in lap-only seat belts. It said the federal regulations were meant only as minimum standards.

The vehicle safety regulations have been changed, and most passenger vehicles built after September 1, 2007, include shoulder-and-lap seat belts in all rear seats that face forward. The administration said the issue still was important and estimated that more than 1 million vehicles in the United States still have some lap-only belts. □

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Museum launches interactive online timeline of 9/11 attacks

NEW YORK — An interactive timeline chronicling the September 11, 2001 attacks hour-by-hour went online with a fast-forward button to skip any video or audio accounts too disturbing for the visitor.

The virtual exhibit was organized by the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, which is building a structure at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan to honor almost 3,000 victims killed in the 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Until the building opens in September 2011, anyone interested in how that historic day unfolded can find out at <http://timeline.national911memorial.org>.



“This timeline is a real attempt to organize what was an incredibly chaotic day into a format

that’s accessible for people to learn from,” said Joe Daniels, the president of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

The timeline begins at 5:45 a.m. with video showing hijackers Mohammed Atta and Abdulaziz al-Omari passing through security in Boston’s Logan Airport just prior to boarding American Airlines Flight 11, the first to slam into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

The timeline ends with then-President George W. Bush’s address to the nation at 8:30 p.m. that night.

In between, there are gripping still photographs and first person accounts from fire fighters and other survivors who were at the scene when planes hit the

buildings or when the twin towers fell.

One office worker’s first-person account, from about 9:15 a.m., when the towers were being evacuated, recounts his descent down the stairwell from his office on the 47th floor of the north tower.

“There were three flows of people. The regular people like me going down, the people who were coming down from the other floors, who were very badly burned. No skin. No hair. Just burned,” said Bruce Dellinger, who worked at a marketing firm, in the audio account.

“The third flow of people was security personnel and fire department people... in some of those eyes you could see, they knew something, that it was dangerous while I was walking down, they were going up to their death, and I was walking down to live.”

Organizers of the timeline took particular care to allow visitors to view and hear only what they feel comfortable absorbing, and included a fast-forward button to skip anything particularly disturbing.

“The material itself is difficult and emotional, and we approach it sensitively by allowing the user to modulate their own experience,” Daniels said.

In Arizona

Iraqi culpable in daughter’s honor killing

PHOENIX — An Arizona jury on Tuesday found an Iraqi immigrant guilty of second-degree murder for running down his daughter with a Jeep because she had become too Westernized.

Faleh Hassan Almaleki struck and killed his daughter Noor Almaleki, 20, in a Phoenix valley parking lot in October 2009, and also injured her boyfriend’s mother Amal Khalaf.

After four days of deliberation, the six-man, six-woman jury at Maricopa County Superior Court also convicted him of aggravated assault for crashing his vehicle into Khalaf, and two further counts of hit and run.

He faces 12 years to 54 1/2 years in prison, officials said.

Police said Almaleki told detectives and witnesses after the October 2009 incident that he was angry at his daughter because she was “too Westernized,” defying Iraqi and Muslim values.

The daughter had shunned an arranged marriage, and was living with her boyfriend and his mother, police said. □

In Arizona

Hundreds of illegal immigrants found

By AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Border agents said Wednesday they arrested an unusually large group of illegal immigrants crossing through the western Arizona desert in what authorities said is proof that increased border technology is working.

Border Patrol surveillance video operators Friday morning spotted a group of more than 100 people walking just north of the Mexico border about 15 miles west of Lukeville, Ariz., Agent Eric Cantu said. When agents responded, Cantu said they were able to arrest 22 people but the rest of the group scattered.

A helicopter team found much of the group hiding in thick brush, and agents arrested 106 additional illegal immigrants. The smugglers and other suspected illegal immigrants may have gotten away, Cantu said. The 128 men who were apprehended have either been returned to Mexico or were jailed because of prior convictions.

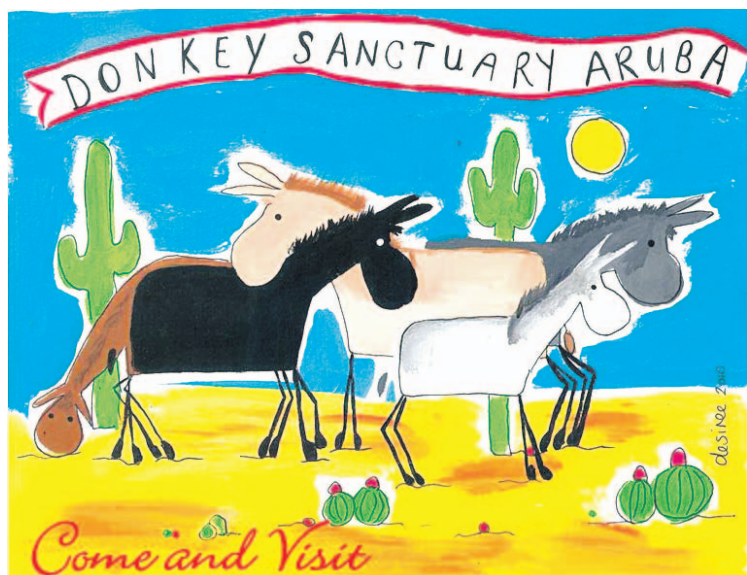
The Border Patrol’s Tucson sector typically sees such large groups of border crossers no more than once or twice a year, Cantu said. Illegal immigrants typically travel in groups of five to 15, he said, because larger groups are much easier to detect.

“Before in remote areas we didn’t have the technology or infrastructure or personnel to actively patrol and monitor the more remote areas,” he said. “The larger groups are easier to spot so they’re getting rarer and rarer. We’re getting to the point where it’s almost impossible to cross in groups so large.”

Cantu said it didn’t make sense why smugglers attempted to take last week’s large group into the U.S.

He said several smugglers likely were with the group but either got away or successfully blended in with the immigrants and went undetected as smugglers.

“Normally smugglers are the first ones to run, and they’ll abandon the group and leave the group to fend for themselves,” Cantu said. □



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Man accused of filming tanning salon patrons

KANSAS CITY, Missouri – A man accused of secretly filmed tanning salon patrons through a hole in the wall was charged with invasion of privacy and possession of child pornography, a prosecutor said.

Joseph K. Layland Jr. is being held on \$500,000 bond in Dunklin County, Missouri. Police found about 40 tapes of women made at DJ's Tan and Tone in Malden, Mo., and also discovered a separate collection of some 1,500 pornographic videos, Dunklin County Prosecutor Stephen Sokoloff told.

The DVDs and VHS videos, many depicting children, were found at the store and at Layland's home, Sokoloff said.

"What makes this unusual is the sheer volume of them," Sokoloff said. The community is especially disturbed to learn that local residents were victims of videotaping while tanning at the salon, he said.

Police began investigating Layland when a tanning customer reported a hole in the wall of a tanning booth, Sokoloff said. That led to other women reporting similar concerns.

Layland is accused of six felony counts of invasion of privacy and four felony counts of possession of child pornography. □

Alleged marijuana thief says

Bullet ricocheted off his golden tooth, saved life

NEW ORLEANS-Today's Times Picayune offers up a pretty epic tale of human survival. According to police, a New Orleans man, Walter Davis, got into an argument over his brother's claim that Davis had been dipping into his marijuana stash. The argument turned violent but with a culminating twist worthy of a Tarantino film:

Walter Davis may have been saved by the shiny, gold skin of his tooth. Davis was shot this month during an argument with his younger brother about drugs, according to New Orleans police. The bullet that was meant for him, Davis told paramedics, ricocheted off a gold tooth and saved his life.

And as impossible as this may sound, a dentistry professor at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine told the paper that Davis' golden grill could have actually managed to deflect a bullet, if the angle and trajectory were right. "Gold is pretty tough stuff," Dr. Robert Kelly said. Wait until Glenn Beck hears about this! □

Jailed sect leader retakes legal control of church

SALT LAKE CITY – Jailed polygamous sect leader Warren Jeffs has resumed legal control over his Utah-based Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Documents filed with the Utah Department of Commerce show church President Wendell Loy Nielsen resigned his post Jan. 28. Jeffs signed the documents retaking control of the church corporation Feb. 10. He filed the papers with the state five days later.

The 55-year-old Jeffs resigned the presidency in 2007 following his Utah conviction on criminal charges of rape as an accomplice but remained the faith's spiritual leader.

The Utah Supreme Court overturned Jeffs' convictions last year. He's now in a Texas jail awaiting trial on sexual assault and bigamy charges. □

Wis. governor discusses strategy

Prank call goes viral on internet



MADISON, Wis. – On a prank call that quickly spread across the Internet, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was duped into discussing his strategy to cripple public employee unions, promising never to give in and joking that he would use a baseball bat in his office to go after political opponents.

Walker believed the caller was a conservative billionaire named David Koch, but it was actually the editor of a liberal online newspaper. The two talked for at least 20 minutes — a conversation in which the governor described several potential ways to pressure Democrats to return to the Statehouse and revealed that his supporters had considered

secretly planting people in pro-union protest crowds to stir up trouble.

The call, which surfaced Wednesday, also showed Walker's cozy relationship with two billionaire brothers who have poured millions of dollars into conservative political causes, including Walker's campaign last year.

Walker compared his stand to that taken by President Ronald Reagan when he fired the nation's air-traffic controllers during a labor dispute in 1981. "That was the first crack in the Berlin Wall and led to the fall of the Soviets," Walker said on the recording.

The audio was posted by the Buffalo Beast, a left-leaning website based in Buffalo, N.Y., and quickly went viral.

Ian Murphy told The Associated Press he carried out the prank to show how candidly Walker would speak with Koch even though, according to Democrats, he refuses to return their calls.

Murphy said he arranged the call Tuesday after speaking with two Walker aides,

including the governor's chief of staff. He placed the call using Skype and recorded it.

Walker spokesman Cullen Werwie confirmed that it was Walker's voice on the call. At a news conference, Walker acknowledged being deceived but stuck to his message that the union changes were needed to balance Wisconsin's budget.

"I'm not going to let one prank phone call be a distraction from the job we have to do," Walker said. "The things I said are the things I've said publicly all the time."

On the call, the governor said he was ratcheting up the pressure on Senate Democrats to return to the Capitol a week after they fled to block the legislation. He said he supported a move to require them to come to the Capitol to pick up their paychecks rather than have the money deposited directly. He also floated an idea to lure Democratic senators back to the Capitol for negotiations and then have the Senate quickly pass the bill while they are in talks. □

Ford to recall 150,000 F-150 pickups

WASHINGTON – Under government pressure, Ford Motor Co. said it will recall nearly 150,000 F-150 pickup trucks to fix air bags that could deploy without warning, a fraction of the vehicles the government contends should be called back and repaired.

The recall covers trucks from the 2005-2006 model years in the United States and Canada for what the Dearborn, Mich., company calls a "relatively low risk" of the air bag deploying inadvertently.

The government, however, has urged Ford to recall 1.3 million F-150s from the 2004-2006 model years, citing 77 injuries from air bags deploying accidentally. The recall is being closely watched because Ford's F-Series pickup truck is the best-selling vehicle in America.

Ford's leaders have made safety a cornerstone of the company's revitalization, but

the truck recall represents the latest safety issue to confront the automaker.

Ford has recalled more than 600,000 Windstar minivans in the U.S. and Canada since August to fix rear axles that can corrode and break, an issue still under investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. During the past decade, Ford recalled more than 10 million vehicles, including the F-Series pickup, to repair a cruise control switch system that was linked to engine fires.

A Transportation Department spokeswoman said the agency was reviewing Ford's response to see if the F-150 recall was adequate.

If the government determines that the recall is too limited, it could seek a rare public hearing to decide whether Ford should widen its safety action.

The last such hearing was



scheduled in September 2009, after a New York school bus manufacturer resisted a recall. The company decided to issue the recall before the hearing.

"Scheduling a hearing is very rare and car companies need to take it seriously," said David Kelly, who served as NHTSA's chief of staff and acting administrator during the Bush administration. "At the end of the day, the companies are going to do what NHTSA wants them to do and they're just delaying the inevitable." NHTSA has been investigating the air bag issues for more than a year. □



ABC Arizona says

Aruba boasts best beaches



Aruba was named one of the best beaches in the Caribbean on ABC 15 in Arizona yesterday. Linda Gorman, from AAA Arizona, shared great tips on choosing which of the two dozen main islands (which includes Aruba, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico) will be perfect for getting exactly what we want out of our vacation.

Best Beaches

The Caribbean has some of the most beautiful beaches you will ever lay your eyes on. There are beaches with pink sand, black sand, white sand, and beaches that seem to stretch into infinity. That being said, it's difficult to pick an island that doesn't have at least one fabulous beach. However, some of the beaches most well-regarded for their beauty are Pink Beach in Barbuda, the turquoise waters and talcum powder sands of Eagle Beach in Aruba.

Best Nightlife

If a lively nightlife is an important part of your vacation, be sure to pick your Caribbean destination wisely, as some islands seem to go to sleep once nighttime hits. Those in search of a nighttime party should consider Aruba, where they will find casinos, bars, dance clubs that are active well into the night. She ended the show by saying "Don't miss out on AAA's Deal of the Week for Feb. 23, 2011 = Aruba Getaway. □

Fundraising for families in need

"Hand on Your Heart" Aruba for Aruba



ORANJESTAD - On Sunday, the 27th of March from 8am until 8pm the greatest fundraiser of 2011 will take place with a Mega RADIO – and TELETHON organized by Magic FM, ATV and FPNC at South Beach Center, in front of the entrance to Magic FM and Buster's Garage. Everyone can follow the even live on air via radio and... From noon it can be seen live on television. Many different activities will be organized to make the public enthusiastic to come, participate and especially to stay. Many bands and prominent figures will contribute in their own way. Ample information will be given about the various contributions in the coming weeks in the media. The goal of this event is to gain

a minimum of 2000 monthly automatic transfers of afl. 25.00 for at least one year. This is what FPNC needs to support families on a monthly basis with food parcels. FPNC has registered 550 families in 2010. In reality there are at least 1200 families (4000 people) that every month have problems with making ends meet. Aruba is generous and gives often to important causes outside Aruba. Now is the time to organize something for our own community.

During the event there will be raffles of several prizes, great and small alike, for those who have already registered. From phones, to weekend stays, dining certificates and more. The grand prize is a car with the new brand BYD (Build Your Dream),

model FO, sponsored by Garage Cordia. The car will be raffled among all participants at the end of the day.

A project team has been put together of volunteers only to make this event a big success. Magic FM and ATV are also contributing solely on a volunteer basis. The logo has been designed pro bono by UR Designs and will be featured on t-shirts in different color on the day of the event.

A request has gone out to Aruba's greatest singers – at least 20 participants – for a fantastic effort, which will be publicized on time before for the radio – and telethon. Every artist is already enthusiastic about the production which is being worked on together with Robert



Thiel.

During the coming weeks images of the poverty that exists in Aruba and the help that FPNC gives to those less fortunate in our community will be shown under the direction of ATV.

The enthusiastic team of this project invites everyone in Aruba to come 27th of March to the South Beach Center to participate in these event: Aruba for Aruba! □



At La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club

International Native Language Day celebrated



EAGLE BEACH – On Monday, the International day dedicated to Native Languages was observed at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club.

The daily morning meeting conducted by General Manager Joe Najjar abandoned its usual use of the English language in favor of Papiamentu, for just one day.

Later on resorts guests were offered Papiamentu

lessons by the Activities Department, as well as commemorative tee-shirts.

The activity concluded with a special gathering at the Chit Chat café with a visit from local poet Belen Kock-Marchena, who was invited for lunch, and a poetry reading.

The invited poet recited some of her work, an excerpt from a book by the name of Vibrations of Love. The

poem Di Ken Anto described Papiamentu's struggle to be recognized, and receive due respect as a Native Language. It touched many, in more than one way.

The Chit Chat café also conducted a contest of the knowledge of proverbs in Papiamentu. The program was offered by the Green, Health and Security Team, as a way of promoting local culture and local customs, always striving to maintain the island's special identity and unique flavor. □



More than just the best pizza on the island...

Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Located on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh under-the-stars approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT of the menu is the *Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle* which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp



bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$8 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$13. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

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or reservations please call Tel:
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www.casatuaaruba.com



Two leading ladies promoted at Aruba Marriott



Recently appointed Director of Rooms Claudia Sanchez with General Manager Surf Club Scott Derrickson.

PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott proudly announces the promotions of two leading ladies: Desiree Bikker as Director of Events at the Resort and Claudia Sanchez as Director of Rooms at Marriott Surf Club.

Desiree began her career with

Marriott in early 2006 as a management intern, where she later in the year officially was hired as Human Resources Coordinator working with employment. In 2007 Desiree was promoted to Human Resource Supervisor, a position she held for a year. In

February 2008, she moved to the resort where she was promoted to Events Manager of the resort, overseeing all weddings and local functions. She took up a new challenge as the Front Office Manager of the Marriott Ocean Club, a position she held recently. She worked closely with the 8,600 owners, exchangers and guests. With a wealth of knowledge and experience in different areas, Desiree will be in charge of leading the Events and Banquets department and coordinating excellent events and beach weddings.

Claudia has been employed at the Aruba Marriott since October 2002, where she started her career as Recreation Manager of the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. Since then she has expanded her management skills and hospitality experience in various management positions at the resort such as Front Desk Manager, Guest Relations Manager and Front Office Manager, where she played a key role during the hotel's \$50 million renovation. Most recently she



Marriott Hotel Manager Louella Brezovar is pictured with Director of Events Desiree Bikker.

served the position of assistant Director of Rooms Operations at the Marriott Surf Club. Claudia has shown great leadership as training coach of Marriott's Breakthrough Leadership program and a champion with brand standard audits. In her new

position as Director of Rooms Operations of the Marriott Surf Club, Claudia will oversee the various departments, front office, recreation, housekeeping and activities and will serve as the main contact for guests and owners. □

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At the Marriott's Aruba Surf Club

Jim & Carolyn renew their vows of marriage



PALM BEACH - Jim & Carolyn Roth from Northville, Michigan were originally married five years ago on February 15, 2006 here on Aruba along with their good friends, Sam and Jan Cole,

also from Michigan, standing by their side. The wedding 5 years ago was performed by Rev. Andy Osbourne and following the wedding and during their subsequent yearly trips back here to the Island

they developed a friendship with Rev. Osbourne and his wife, Michele. When their fifth wedding anniversary approached this year, they asked Rev. Andy to renew their wedding vows for them and again had their friends Sam and Jan Cole standing with them.

Aruba holds a special spot in the hearts of both the Roths and the Coles who having been traveling to Aruba together for over ten years and both are owners at the Marriott's

Ocean Club and Surf Club and it seemed fitting to renew their vows on February 15th on the same beach where we were originally married at the

Marriott complex. Congratulation from Aruba Today to the Roths from your friends at Aruba Today. ☐
Photos by Julia Renfro



A white winter from NYC to Aruba



EAGLE BEACH - Mike and Chris Rouse, together with their lovely seven year old daughter Julia were having a wonderful white winter back in upstate New York. The family decided they needed a little break from the cold so they headed sound to Aruba to exchange snow for sand. The Rouses are guests at the Divi Links and they are enjoying all of the great things that Aruba has to offer including a trip to Baby Beach yesterday. Enjoy your stay and we hope to see you again next year. ☐

Photos by Julia Renfro

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Why did Google collect kids' SSNs?

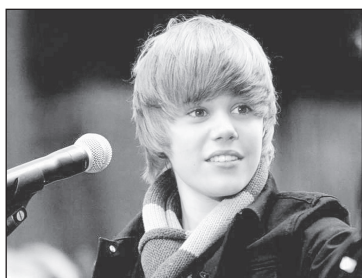


WASHINGTON, DC – Did Google just become evil? The search giant created an art contest for kids called Doodle-4-Google, which sounds all cute and sweet and everything until you realize that it might have been a horrible ruse to get the Social Security numbers of thousands of our nation's innocent youth! Bob Bowdon, director of the education-corruption documentary The Cartel, noticed that to enter the contest, parents had to fork over their kids' birthday, city of birth, and last four digits of their Social Security number. With those three pieces of data, it's apparently relatively easy to guess someone's full number. Google could make a lot of marketing money from that information, New York's Nitasha Tiku writes, though Bowdon admits he has "no evidence that Google will

use or sell this information for marketing purposes." On the other hand, Tiku notes, Google stopped asking for the last four digits a mere 26 hours after the FTC was alerted. "Okay, class. Who wants to send in a doodle under the theme 'Be sort of evil until someone figures it out'?" Tiku says. The incident raises a lot of questions. Among them: Why does Google need your "last four" for an art contest? Is this like requiring an SSN to claim lottery winnings? (If so, perhaps this is understandable?) What would a hypothetically profit-driven evil Google do with the social security numbers of a bunch of kids? It's not like they have credit cards or something, right? But what if it's an investment so future purchases can be tracked?! Seriously, did parents really not understand they were giving out their kids' social security numbers? □

Can we recover from Bieber's haircut?

New York – The teen idol goes for a more adult look, and shocks his young fan base. Will the scars ever heal? Teen idol Justin Bieber made the momentous decision to cut his hair, ditching his famed blond shag last weekend for a closer cropped, more mature-looking 'do. After Bieber broke the news on Twitter and followed up with pictures, many of his tween fans took to Twitter to cry foul; an unconfirmed report claims that 80,000 fans even unsubscribed to his Twitter feed. (Even if true, Bieber has retained a healthy 7.5 million Twitter followers.) Two days after his earthshaking announcement, the newly shorn star was still defending his decision on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," where he shrugged off fan criticism and gave the talk-show host a box of his hair to donate to



charity. Here are some choice reactions to the haircut heard 'round the world: He looks familiar... "Good news," tweets @DirtySpaceNews. "Justin Bieber doesn't look like Ellen Page anymore. Bad news: he looks like Emma Watson." But still not quite masculine Bieber's old haircut drew much notice for its feminine look, says Mog.com. The new one is "still curiously tousled, and it still has Brought to you by Ellen DeGeneres written all over it. So if this was the Bieb's attempt at asserting his burgeoning masculinity, better luck next time." □

Will Gadhafi ever give up?



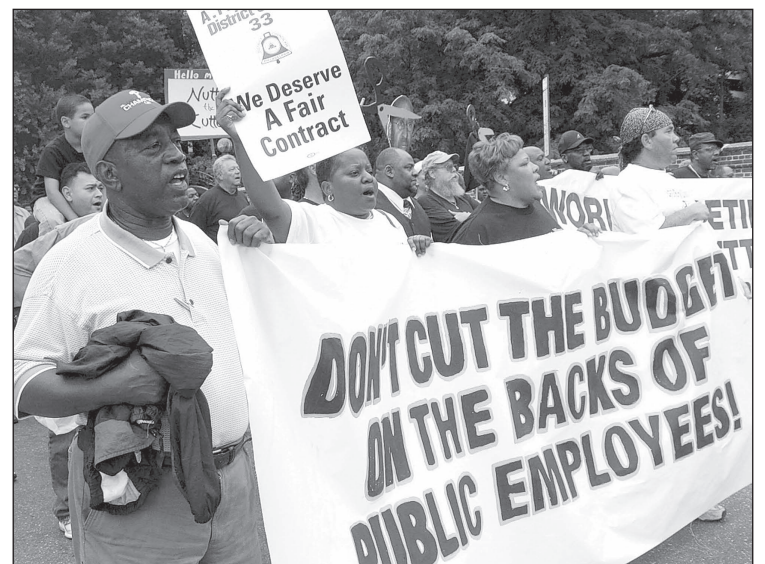
New York – Libya's notorious strongman says he'll die before giving in to pro-democracy protesters. Is there any chance he'll leave? Anti-government rebels have taken control of most of eastern Libya, but Moammar Gadhafi vowed Tuesday to fight until the "last drop" of his blood is gone to keep his 41-year grip on power. (Watch clips from the speech here.) He called his opponents "rats" and said his loyalists would "cleanse Libya house by house,"

insisting he would "die as a martyr" rather than leave the North African nation. Is there any hope that Gadhafi will surrender power before the bloodshed gets worse? (Watch an AP report about Libya's unrest) Gadhafi will stop at nothing: When Gadhafi announced in 2003 that he had "given up on terrorism" and abandoned his pursuit of nuclear weapons, says The New York Times in an editorial, the world cheered. But his

"brutal suppression of anti-government demonstrations has left no doubt that he is still an international criminal." He will "butcher and martyr his own people" if that's what it takes to remain in power. "Libya's butcher" He might go to save his life: Gadhafi's "brutal crackdown" might not "be enough to save him," says Pam Lobley at New Jersey Newsroom. Even many of his own army officers have abandoned him, urging their fellow soldiers to join the rebels. With so many people eager to help Gadhafi "die like a martyr," there's still a chance he'll wise up and flee. "Will Gadhafi flee Libya for Englewood, N.J.?" Gadhafi has nowhere to go: After spending decades supporting terrorists and killing his own people, says David Pryce-Jones in National Review, Gadhafi has no place to run to. □

Are public employees overpaid?

New York – Wisconsin conservatives say public employees are breaking the bank with their bloated compensation. No, counter liberals: If anything, these staffers are underpaid At the core of Wisconsin's budget showdown is Republican Governor Scott Walker's argument that public employees are handsomely overcompensated, and that reining in their benefits is key to erasing budget shortfalls. Liberals point to studies that show public workers are, in fact, paid less than their peers in the private sector, and argue this GOP crackdown on unions is about power, not money. Who's right? (See Scott Walker's fireside chat) Wisconsin's public workers are underpaid: Have you ever heard of anyone joining the public sector to get rich? asks Matt Steinglass in The Economist. I haven't. And according to a new study by the Economic Policy Institute, public employees in Wisconsin are no different. Compared to private-sector workers with similar education and experience, "they're paid less." "Don't



join the government to get rich" Wages aren't the issue "pension obesity" is: It's not hard to find examples of "how good life is for those who once worked for the city, the state, or any one of several public agencies," says Richard Cohen in The Washington Post. Take the NYC fire department official with a \$242,000 annual pension, or the California cops who retire before age 50. No wonder there's a "feeling of disgust" for civil servants: "Some of them retire on larger stipends than the average American makes in salary." "Government pensions, an

obesity epidemic" Why nickel-and-dime civil servants? In Wisconsin, at least, public servants earn 5 percent less than their private sector counterparts, even when you include benefits, says Alex Knapp in Outside the Beltway. But "I don't see the point of comparing private vs. public sector compensation." You get what you pay for: Better-paid workers mean a "more-efficient government," while "underpaying public servants is a one-way ticket to a system of more bribery and corruption." "Are Wisconsin public servants overpaid?" □

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European Union threatens Libya with sanctions



PARIS – Moammar Gadhafi's fierce crackdown on Libyan protesters could be considered "crimes against humanity," the European Union declared vowing it stood ready to hit Libya with sanctions for the attacks.

"The continuing brutal and bloody repression against the

Libyan civilian population is revolting," French President Nicolas Sarkozy said in a statement raising the possibility of cutting off all economic and business ties between the EU and Libya. "The international community cannot remain a spectator to these massive violations of human rights."

The European Union has faced criticism for an initially cautious, measured response to the bloodshed in Libya and in other Arab countries swept up in a wave of popular protests against authoritarian regimes.

The bloc's 27 members have disagreed on how hard-hitting a tone to take against Libya, their neighbor across the Mediterranean and a major

supplier of their oil.

But by momentum seemed to be building toward a tougher response to Gadhafi, who has vowed to fight to his "last drop of blood."

"A political leader who has decided to bomb his own citizens has lost all legitimacy to continue leading his country," Spanish Foreign Minister Trinidad Jimenez said.

After a meeting of EU ambassadors, the bloc did not announce sanctions, but EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said the EU stood "ready to take further measures" beyond suspending talks on a bilateral deal.

The precise measures were still being negotiated, a senior EU official said, adding that there were up to 10,000 EU

citizens in Libya, sparking worries about getting them out of the North African country safely.

The official requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

EU President Herman Van Rompuy said Libya has committed "horrible crimes that are unacceptable and must not remain without consequences."

The U.N.'s top human rights official said a no-fly zone could be imposed over Libya to protect civilians from attacks by government aircraft. U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said if unconfirmed reports of aerial attacks against civilians turned out to be true, "I think there's an immediate need for that level of protection." □

Gadhafi ordered Lockerbie bombing



STOCKHOLM – Libya's ex-justice minister was quoted as telling a Swedish newspaper that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi personally ordered the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people in 1988.

"I have proof that Gadhafi gave the order about Lockerbie," Mustafa Abdel-Jalil was quoted as saying in an interview with Expressen, a Stockholm-based tabloid.

Abdel-Jalil, who stepped down as justice minister to protest the clampdown on anti-government demonstrations, didn't describe the proof.

Expressen's online edition said its correspondent interviewed Abdel-Jalil outside the local parliament in the Libyan city of Al Bayda. A longer version of the interview was to be published in Expressen's paper edition on Thursday.

Gadhafi has accepted Libya's responsibility for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground, and paid compensation to the victims' families.

But he hasn't admitted personally giving the order for the attack.

Abdel-Jalil told Expressen that Gadhafi gave the order to Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, the only man convicted in the bombing. □

In Somali

Militants display lifeless bodies

MOGADISHU, Somalia – Somali militants said they had paraded the bodies of five African Union peacekeepers killed in fighting and also were holding a soldier from Burundi captive after intense battles in the capital.

The fighting appeared to come amid a major push in Mogadishu by Somali troops and African Union peacekeepers against the militants. Heavy fighting had broken out over the weekend after AU troops discovered a trench used by militants to move supplies and fighters in the capital.

The violence started after AU peacekeepers and Somali troops launched a dawn attack on rebel positions, seizing the former Somalia Ministry of Defense building, which had been serving as the militants' base, according to Maj. Barigye Bahoku, a spokesman for the AU troops.

Bahoku declined to comment on reports of heavy losses by the AU troops. □

In Israeli

Tanks wallop Gaza after mortar attack

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip – Israeli tank fire wounded 11 people, including at least six militants, in the Gaza Strip following an attack on an Israeli patrol, the military and Palestinian officials said.

The Israeli military said its tanks opened fire after the militants detonated a bomb targeting the Israeli patrol near the border and then fired mortars at the soldiers.

Gaza health officials say two of the wounded militants were in serious condition. Both Islamic Jihad and Hamas militants say they fired mortars at the troops. No Israeli soldiers were hurt. Israel and Hamas have largely observed an unofficial cease-fire since an Israeli military offensive in Gaza two years ago. But clashes sporadically flare up along the volatile border as Gaza militants fire rockets and mortars into Israel, drawing military reprisals.

Wednesday's incident marked the first time in weeks the clashes have produced casualties.

Meanwhile, a large explosion in the southern Gaza Strip killed a 10-year-old girl and wounded two others. Gaza's Hamas rulers said they were investigating the cause of the blast.

Internal explosions are common in Gaza. They often take place in the homes of militants where explosives and other armaments detonate prematurely. □



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In New Zealand

Foreign students feared dead after earthquake

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand – Students from across Asia are feared among the dead in an office building that collapsed in New Zealand's earthquake, with police saying that they were "100 percent certain" no one trapped in the rubble was alive. Survivors of the collapse at the Canterbury Television building described a scene "like out of a horror movie" and said they were worried about dozens of friends and colleagues whose fate was still unclear. "As we were eating lunch, there was a major shaking, and suddenly the floor fell," 19-year-old Kento Okuda told Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper. Okuda was studying at King's Education language school inside the building along with more than

a dozen other Japanese. "Everyone around me was saying things like 'It hurts' as they fell downward," he said. "And then I realized I was in total darkness, with my right leg pinned by something so I couldn't move." Rescuers had to cut off his leg to free him.

By afternoon, authorities had called off rescue operations at the building, where an unknown number of people were working or studying when the quake struck 24 hours earlier.

"We don't believe this site is now survivable," police operations commander Inspector Dave Lawry told reporters, adding that the part of the building that remains standing was in danger of collapse, weakened by quake aftershocks and fire.

A number of overseas students who were in the building when it toppled had not been located, he said, adding that



he could not give an exact number.

"The sad fact is we're removing resources from this site to other sites where there is a higher chance of survivability," Lawry said.

"My heart goes out to those families knowing that some of their children have probably been killed in this incident."

Those trapped were thought to include as many as a dozen Japanese students attending a language school on the premises and 15 employees of a TV station. Also missing were students from Thailand,

China and South Korea.

Families of the missing waited anxiously for any news that their relatives escaped the avalanche of concrete and debris unleashed by the magnitude 6.3 quake.

"We don't know whether Noriko was eating lunch inside the school, or whether she went out. If she went out, she may have survived," Shu Otsubo, whose daughter was taking classes at King's Education and hasn't been heard from since the earthquake hit, told Japanese broadcaster NHK. □

In Iraq

Policeman killed in anti-govt. protest



SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq – Anti-government protests in the Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabja left a policeman dead as a result of gunshot wounds and another injured, the town's mayor and a doctor said.

Several hundred demonstrators had been marching to the offices of Halabja mayor Goran Adhem when shots were fired, although both sides offered differing accounts of how the fatality occurred.

"The demonstrators shot and killed a policeman and wounded another," Adhem said. He added that protesters attempted to march to his office but, before arriving, opened fire.

Adhem said that authorities had "video of demonstrators carrying guns" and claimed that protesters were not from the Kurdish town, 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of the Iraqi autonomous region's second-biggest city Sulaimaniyah, but instead were of Arab origin.

But protesters, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of arrest, insisted that no one at their rally was carrying weapons. □

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In Mexico

Marines find explosives, guns



ACAPULCO, Mexico — Mexican marines found 72 sticks of commercial synthetic explosives at a heavily armed camp in the southern state of Guerrero, the navy said Tuesday. Such rural camps have frequently been used as training grounds and operating bases by Mexico's drug cartels. The camp was found Monday near the border of Guerrero and neighboring Michoacan state, where drug gangs frequently operate.

In addition to explosives, marines found 14 rifles, eight grenades, more than 4,000 bullets and a small amount of marijuana at the camp, the navy said. No arrests were made. Mexican cartels have begun using car bombs to attack police and other targets. In the Guerrero state resort of Acapulco, where the Mexican Open tennis tournament is being held, police found the bodies of seven men, some mutilated, on Tuesday. □

in Libya

AU slams use of force

ADDIS ABABA — The African Union condemned “the disproportionate use of force” against civilians in Libya and expressed regret at the loss of life there. The pan-African body said in a statement that AU Commission chief Jean Ping was following the situation in Libya “with great concern”. Ping “condemns the disproportionate use of force against civilians and deeply deplores the many human lives lost so far,” it added. Ping is “in contact with the Libyan authorities and other actors and will pursue his efforts for an end to the spilling of blood,” the statement said.



The AU chief also appealed for “an immediate end of the repression and violence.” “He stresses that only dialogue and consultation will enable the Libyans to find appropriate solutions to the challenges facing their country and to

embark upon the necessary reforms,” the communique said. Ping encouraged “all the actors concerned to favor dialogue in order to open new prospects for Libya in peace, security and democracy.” □

In Venezuela

Chavez foe freed from house arrest



CARACAS, Venezuela — A congressman-elect said he has been released from house arrest, apparently because of a three-week hunger strike by students who demanded that opponents of President Hugo Chavez be freed. Biagio Pilieri was elected to Venezuela's congress in September, but has been unable to take his seat due to charges he was involved in corruption during his 2000-2004 tenure as mayor of the western city of Bruzual. Pilieri told the Globovision television channel that he was eager to enter the National Assembly. It is not clear if he is now able to serve. Pilieri's attorney, Norma Delgado, told Union Radio he was granted “conditional liberty,” meaning the charges against him remain active. Felix Herrera, another lawyer on Pilieri's defense team, told Globovision the former mayor was prohibited from leaving the country

and must appear in court every 30 days. Pilieri denied any wrongdoing: “We've shown that we are innocent.” Pilieri's release came a day after dozens of student activists ended a hunger strike that began on Jan. 31 to demand the release of more than two dozen Chavez foes they consider political prisoners. Julio Cesar Rivas, who helped organize the hunger strike, called the judge's decision to release Pilieri “an important signal.” “We are very happy,” Rivas said in an e-mail sent to The Associated Press. The protesters, who said they had been subsisting on only water and saline solution, were also demanding the Organization of American States investigate the prosecution of Chavez opponents on allegedly trumped-up, politically motivated charges. □

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S.Korea, China worry over N.Korea's nuclear program

SEOUL, South Korea – The foreign ministers of South Korea and China expressed worries about North Korea's recently disclosed uranium enrichment program, which could give it a second way to make atomic bombs, a South Korean official said.

The foreign ministers agreed to consult closely on how to deal with the North's uranium program, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity because of department policy.

Efforts to deal with North Korea's nuclear capability took on renewed urgency in November when a visiting American scientist was shown a uranium enrichment facility.

South Korea says that violates a past international disarmament-for-aid deal and U.N. resolutions.

North Korea is already believed to have enough weaponized plutonium for at least a half dozen atomic bombs.

China host of stalled six-nation North Korean nuclear disarmament talks is officially opposed to the North's nuclear drive. But it remains to be seen whether China, which is North Korea's only major ally, will allow the United Nations to criticize the North's uranium enrichment efforts. South Korean media have reported that China is blocking a U.N. Security Council committee from issuing a report saying the North's uranium program violates U.N. resolutions. The committee was to meet later in New York.

The Chinese and South Korean foreign ministers also agreed in principle to create an environment for resuming the six-nation talks, which seek North Korea's nuclear disarmament in exchange for economic assistance and other benefits, the official said.

China wants an early resumption of the negotiations, the official said.



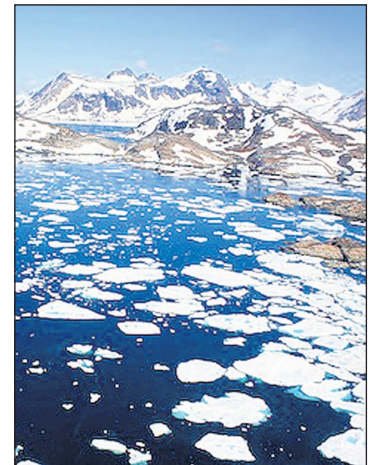
Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi began a two-day visit to South Korea on aimed at easing animosity between the Koreas. In a meeting with South Korean

President Lee Myung-bak, he said Beijing hopes for improved ties between the Koreas and reiterated China's opposition to the North's nuclear program, Lee's office said in a statement.

Lee asked China to play a constructive role in efforts to end North Korea's nuclear program, it said.

Relations between North and South Korea have plunged to one of the lowest levels in decades due to two deadly incidents last year the sinking of a South Korean naval ship in March, and a North Korean artillery barrage in November on a front-line South Korean island. Fifty South Koreans were killed. □

Libyan turmoil puts focus on Arctic oil



OTTAWA – Unrest in the Middle East means the potential oil riches in Arctic areas like Greenland are more important than ever, the island's premier said criticizing environmental groups that want to hamper exploration.

Greenland, which enjoys self-rule as part of the Kingdom of Denmark, has issued 20 licenses for oil and gas exploration in Baffin Bay on its West coast.

Some estimates put Greenland's offshore oil reserves at 20 billion barrels.

"There is a very strong focus on the Arctic especially nowadays because of the richness of natural resources. The very last days' developments in the Middle East of course put more (emphasis) on this focus," said Greenland Premier Kuupik Kleist, referring to instability in Libya.

"We are of course influenced and also highly affected by what's happening on world markets," he told an Ottawa conference on the Arctic.

Speaking separately, Greenland's industry and mineral resources minister, Ove Karl Berthelsen, said exploration licenses for blocks in the Greenland Sea to the east would be auctioned in 2012 and 2013.

Firms with licenses include U.S. based ConocoPhillips and Exxon, Canada's Encana, Norway's Statoil, France's GDF Suez, Britain's Cairn Energy, Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Denmark's Maersk and DONG Energy, and Greenland's national oil company Nunaoil. □

In the Philippines

Grave robbers unearthing tribesmen

MANILA – Grave robbers have dug up the remains of Philippine tribesmen and passed them off as the bodies of Japanese soldiers for return to Japan, tribal leaders said.

The skeletons of hundreds of Mangyan and Ifugao tribesmen have been shipped to Japan since 2008 after being unearthed by looters paid by a Japanese group called Kuentai that purports to find remains of the country's World War II dead, they claimed.

Aniw Lubag, a Mangyan leader, told a news conference his tribe briefly detained three people in 2008 as they stole bones from a burial cave on the central island of Mindoro. "They said they were hired by non-Mangyans. We heard other Filipinos ordered (the digging up of bones) and then gave them to Kuentai," said Lubag.

Caesar Dulnuan, a head of the Ifugao tribal group, said skeletons had vanished from the northern mountain community after the Japanese group began searching for the remains of war dead in the area.

"We don't know who received the bones. There were a lot of people and they paid them 500 pesos (11.40 dollars) per skeleton, he said.



The looters said they were paid by others to bring bones to Kuentai, whose website says it is a "non-profit organization" seeking to repatriate the remains of half a million Japanese soldiers killed during the occupation of the Philippines.

In Tokyo, a senior Kuentai official denied allegations that his group and its local staff had been involved in stealing any bones or had paid money for remains.

"We have heard some people were arrested for trying to bring stolen bones to us," Kuentai secretary general Usan Kurata told AFP in a telephone interview.

"As far as we know, we have not received any stolen bones. We have already reported this to the welfare and labour

ministry," he said, adding that the government is expected to announce soon the outcome of its enquiries into the issue.

Japan's Kyodo news agency said Kuentai was officially tasked by the Japanese government in 2008 with collecting the remains of Japan's war dead in the Philippines.

It said around 500,000 Japanese soldiers died in the country during WWII, with the bodies of around 380,000 yet to be recovered.

Koji Nakamura, a spokesman for a group of Japanese war veterans and their relatives, urged the Philippine government to investigate.

"If this is true, it is unscrupulous and profane," Nakamura told the news conference. □

Crowds screaming “thieves” and “you robbed our money”

Former top Mubarak regime officials in court

CAIRO – An angry crowd of hundreds taunted three former high-ranking members of ousted President Hosni Mubarak’s regime as they arrived in court for a corruption hearing, screaming “thieves” and “you robbed our money.”

Egyptian authorities also imposed a travel ban on two former ministers and the head of state TV and radio as a measure that often serves as a prelude to a criminal investigation and a possible trial, the official MENA news agency said. The move is the latest from Egypt’s new military rulers against stalwarts of the former regime.

The three former top officials who appeared in a Cairo Criminal Court on ex-Housing Minister Ahmed Maghrabi, former Tourism Minister Zuheir Garana and steel tycoon and prominent ruling party leader Ahmed Ezz

wore white prison uniforms and sat in a metal cage as a judge issued a ruling blocking any commercial dealings in the men’s properties.

Maghrabi shouted out from behind the cage: “I will not be a scapegoat. I am innocent.” Ezz and Garana also said they are innocent.

The trio, who face allegations that range from money laundering to abuse of authority and squandering state wealth, are among some dozen ex-ministers and businessmen who are under investigation. The protesters who ousted Mubarak in 18 days of demonstrations against his regime often mentioned the deep corruption of the government as a key reason behind their movement.

The popular anger felt against such former regime powerbrokers was evident. As the vehicles carrying Maghrabi, Garana and Ezz

drove through the streets of Cairo to the courthouse, dozens of cars followed them honking and people chanted “there are the thieves.”

When the men arrived at court, more than 500 people standing outside the building shouted at them, “thieves” and “you robbed our money.”

The travel ban was slapped on former Prime Minister Atef Obeid, who served as premier from 1999 to 2004, as well as long-serving Culture Minister Farouq Hosni and state TV and radio chief Osama el-Sheiky. The same restrictions were also imposed on nine businessmen deemed to have cushy ties with the Mubarak regime.

Also hundreds of low-ranking police officers set fire to parts of the security headquarters after four days of protests to demand better salaries, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity



because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that the officers numbered about 500 and that most of them had been sacked earlier and were demanding their jobs back.

Also, security officials said an Egyptian border guard was shot dead near the country’s border with Israel in the Sinai peninsula. Gunmen earlier attacked a security building on

the Egyptian side of the town of Rafah on the border with the Palestinian Gaza Strip, they said.

The area is home to Bedouin tribes who resist government control, and officials there say tribesmen have joined forces with Islamic militants, some of whom escaped from prisons during the uprising. Armed groups have bombed the state security building in Rafah in the past. □

In Ecuador

Indigenous woman humbles U.S. oil giant

RUMIPAMBA – She has no legal training, and doesn’t speak the Spanish that dominates government in Quito but indigenous villager Maria Aguinda helped bring a landmark judgment against US oil giant Chevron for polluting the rain forest she calls home.

The diminutive grandmother whose modest home sits near marshes clogged for decades in sticky oil has been at the heart of the David-and-Goliath case, and spoke out after Chevron was slapped last week with a \$9.5-billion fine, among the heaviest ever handed down for environmental damage.

“Before I die they have to pay me for the dead animals, and for what they did to the river, and the water and the earth,” the 61-year-old Aguinda told AFP at her home in Rumipamba, a town in remote Orellana province where pollution caused by 30 years of oil drilling and petroleum accidents had become a sad fact of life.

Texaco operated in the area between 1964 and 1990, and was bought in 2001 by Chevron, which inherited Texaco’s legal nightmare.

“The demand (for compensation) is going on track,” said the ethnic Quechua woman, pointing to a nearby spot marked by spillage from an oil well run by Texaco in the 1970s.

“Mary Aguinda et al” are the opening words of the suit launched in 1993 on behalf of 30,000 residents of Orellana and Sucumbios provinces, in which they charge Texaco dumped billions of gallons of toxic crude during its operations, fouling rivers, lakes and soil and causing cancer deaths in indigenous communities. Aguinda said she believes her husband and two of his 10 children died from effects of the pollution, which rights group Amazon Watch says has affected an area the size of the US state of Rhode Island. Several of her family members “have



Ecuadoran indigenous villager Maria Aguinda, seen here at her house at the Rumipamba commune, helped bring a landmark judgment against US oil giant Chevron for polluting the rain forest she calls home.

skin problems, like fungus,” Aguinda said as she lifted her granddaughter’s foot off the dirt floor to show an outbreak on her leg. Chevron blames state-run Petroecuador, with which Texaco formed a consortium from 1972 until the US firm departed in 1992, of not doing its part in the clean-up agreed with the state. “When Texaco came we never thought they would leave behind such damage, never. Then it began to drill a well and set up burn pits,” she said, helped in translation by her son William Grefa. □

Greek police clash with anti-austerity protesters

ATHENS – Greek police clashed with protesters as around 100,000 workers, pensioners and students marched to parliament to protest austerity policies aimed at helping Greece cope with a huge debt crisis.

Riot police fired scores of rounds of teargas and flash bombs at protesters hurling petrol bombs, choking the main Syndagma Square with smoke and sending crowds of striking protesters running for cover.

The 24-hour strike by public and private sector employees grounded flights, closed schools and paralyzed public transport in the first nationwide walkout against cost cuts this year.

In the biggest march since December 2008 riots brought the country to a standstill for weeks according to police sources and eyewitnesses, 100,000 Greeks marched through the streets of Athens chanting “We are not paying” and “No sacrifice for plutocracy.” Police officially put the figure at 32,000. Riot police fired teargas in several places to disperse demonstrators hurling stones and plastic bottles. Shops boarded up their windows and central Athens hotels locked their doors.

Fifteen policemen and 10 civilians were injured, including one journalist slightly hurt by a petrol bomb, police officials said, while 26 protesters were detained.

Protesters broke up marble paving stones for rocks to throw at police, set garbage cans on fire and damaged bus stops. Others unfolded a black banner reading “We are dying” in front of parliament.

“Enough is enough! All these tax hikes are killing our businesses and we have to fire people,” said bar owner Costas Loras, 42. □

NET GAIN: JAZZ SEND WILLIAMS TO N.J.

Utah Jazz Deron Williams talks with the media after NBA basketball practice, Friday, Feb. 11, 2011, in Salt Lake City. The New Jersey Nets have agreed to acquire All-Star point guard Deron Williams from the Jazz in a three-team deal.

Associated Press
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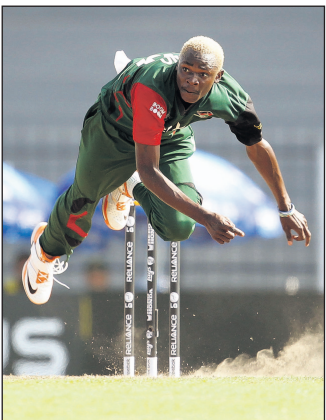


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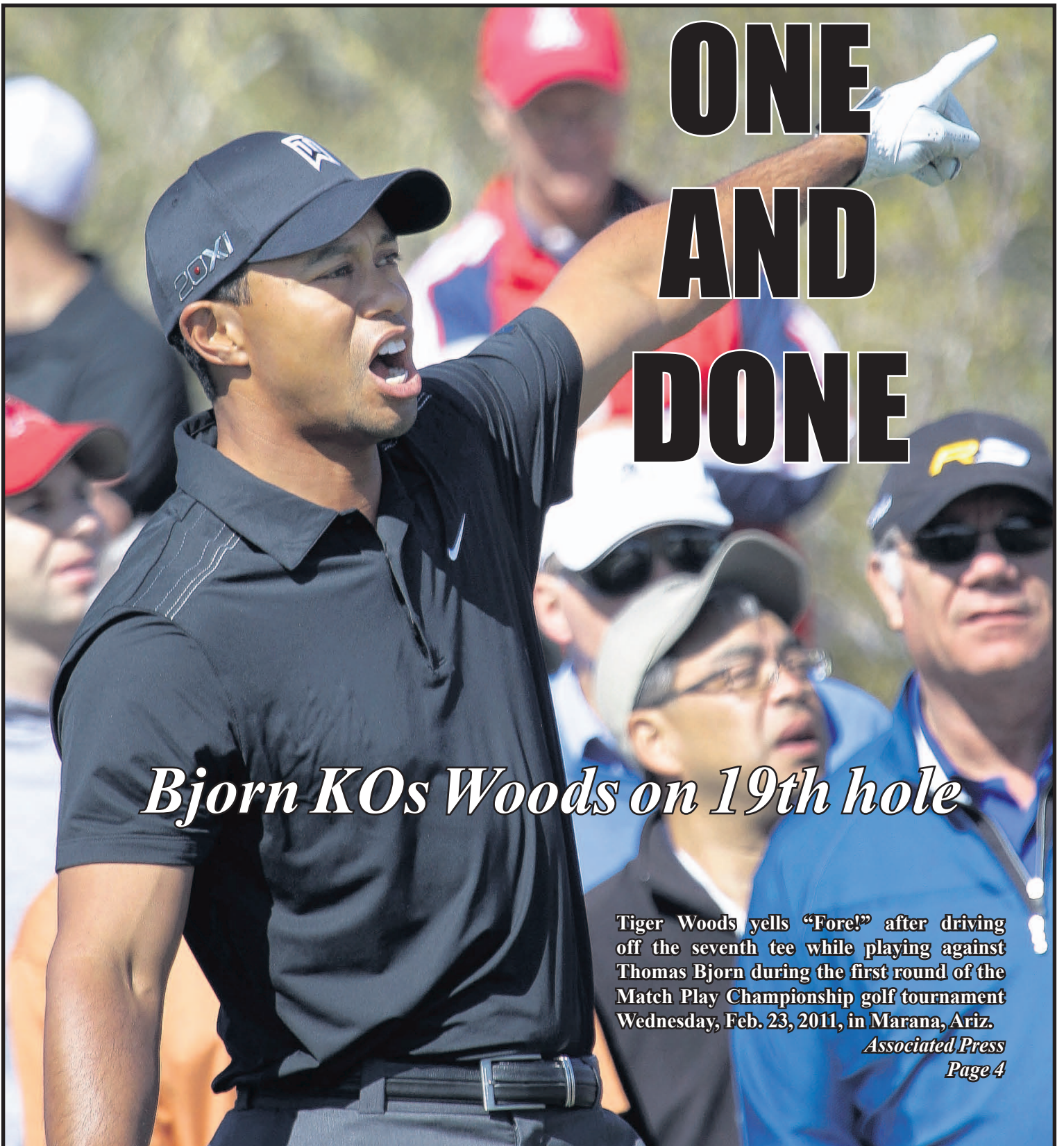
Kenya's bowler Elijah Otieno follows through after delivering a ball during the ICC Cricket World Cup match between Kenya and Pakistan in Hambantota, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, Feb. 23

Associated Press
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CSI: NY Jets? Ryan, GM shoot scene for TV

NEW YORK (AP) — Rex Ryan, coach of the New York Jets football team, is starring in a new television series, and this one is fiction. Ryan still plays himself in an episode of "CSI: NY" shot Wednesday in Los Angeles. CBS says Ryan and Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum appear in a scene with actors Gary Sinise and Eddie Cahill that is scheduled to air in the spring. Ryan became a TV sensation before this past season with his curse-filled turn on HBO's "Hard Knocks" reality show. □

ONE AND DONE



Bjorn KOs Woods on 19th hole

Tiger Woods yells "Fore!" after driving off the seventh tee while playing against Thomas Bjorn during the first round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press
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NFL urging states to pass youth concussion laws

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The NFL wants all 50 states and the District of Columbia to pass legislation that could help cut down on concussions suffered by young football players. A quicker route would be through federal legislation, and the

NFL backs a bill pending in Congress. But the GOP-led House is unlikely to support that kind of federal role in local matters, so the league sees a bigger opening at the state level. The suicide of a former NFL player just last week highlighted the urgency of this issue.

Continued on Page B6



Israeli tennis player Shahar Peer returns the ball to Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia during the second day of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday Feb. 22, 2011.

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki beat 2006 champion Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-3, 6-2 Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Qatar Ladies Open.

The Dane joins No. 2 Vera Zvonareva and No. 5 Jelena Jankovic as the remaining seeded players left in the tournament. Zvonareva downed Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-2, and Jankovic defeated Sania Mirza of India 6-0, 6-1.

Nadia serves well, it was important to get my returns right.”

Earlier, seeded players Francesca Schiavone, Li Na and Shahar Peer lost in straight sets.

The third-seeded Schiavone lost 7-5, 6-3 to Peng Shuai of China. The fourth-seeded Li was beaten 6-2, 6-1 by Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic, and the eighth-seeded Peer went down 6-1, 6-0 to

Wozniacki into quarterfinals with win over Nadia Petrova

Wozniacki will play Flavia Pennetta of Italy, who earned a hard-fought 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic.

“I just focus on myself and I try to win,” said Wozniacki, who broke once in the first set and twice in the second.

“There’s a lot of good players here, so it’s not easy to win. I’m just taking it one day at a time. It’s not going to be easy tomorrow, but I’m looking forward to it.

“My serve was quite good, so too the returns. Considering the fact that

Marion Bartoli of France.

In another match, Daniela Hantuchova rallied to beat Vera Dushevina of Russia 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Peng broke Schiavone twice in each set and will play Bartoli in the quarterfinals.

“Playing against Francesca is always difficult, but I was the better player today,” Peng said. “She tested me in the first set, but I was more determined.” Schiavone struggled with her serve, hitting five double-faults.

“I was not confident. I could not do too great,” she said. “For me to go out first round or third round is not the problem. I missed a lot of easy balls. I should take some days off perhaps, but there is no time.”

Bartoli had three break points in the only game Peer won.

“Shahar has dominated me in the past, so it was nice to get a win against her,” said Bartoli, who improved to 3-7 against the Israeli.

Sixth-seeded Victoria Azarenka and No. 7 Agnieszka Radwanska were the other seeded players who bowed out of the tournament. □

Pakistan wobbles early, then powers to victory

GERALD IMRAY

AP Sports Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) —

Former champion Pakistan overcame an early wobble before powering to victory over struggling Kenya on Wednesday, underlining the strength of the subcontinent’s teams at the World Cup.

Pakistan slipped to 12-2 before four successive batsmen made half-centuries and the 1992 World Cup winner racked up 317-7. Skipper Shahid Afridi then took 5-16 to spin Kenya out for just 112 in Hambantota for a commanding 205-run win in Group A.

Also Wednesday, the ICC reprimanded Ricky Ponting for his behavior after the Australia captain damaged a TV set in the dressing room following his run out against Zimbabwe in Ahmadabad.

Pakistan made its impact on the pitch, following the lead of fellow subcontinent heavyweights India and Sri

Lanka, who also opened with 300-plus scores in one-sided victories.

West Indies and South Africa meet in New Delhi on Thursday in what should be an evenly-matched contest, although the South Africans are tipped to edge it.

Kamran Akmal, Younis Khan, Misbah-ul-Haq and Umar Akmal all made 50’s as Pakistan posted a formidable total and never looked like losing. Umar Akmal dished out the most punishment with 71 off just 52 balls, with eight fours and a six.

Pakistan had lost openers Mohammed Hafeez and Ahmed Shehzad in nine deliveries, but the next four batsmen put the side convincingly back on course. Kenya gave away 46 extras, 37 of them through wides, in a wayward bowling performance that was followed by a miserable batting show under Afridi’s unnervingly

fast legspin bowling.

Afridi’s figures gave Pakistan cricket fans a big reason to smile after recent off-field troubles, which included a squabble over who should lead the team. Afridi will have won over any doubters with Wednesday’s performance.

The victory also ensures that Pakistan’s next game against Sri Lanka is a mouthwatering meeting on Saturday of two teams full of confidence and strongly suited to the local conditions.

“It was a good start, but I think the next game is very important for us,” Afridi said. “It will be harder and we have learnt a lot of things from here.”

With the World Cup following form so far, Darren Sammy thinks his West Indies team will cause the first upset when it plays three-time semifinalist South Africa at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium.

Sammy said there was “a quiet confidence” within the West Indies camp, backed by the presence of matchwinning allrounders Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo.

South Africa has its own reasons to be confident,



Pakistan’s batsman Misbah-ul-Haq looks on after playing a shot during the ICC Cricket World Cup match between Kenya and Pakistan in Hambantota, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

with skipper Graeme Smith describing its spin bowling combination as the best it’s ever had in the subcontinent. Both captains did agree that the Kotla pitch in New Delhi was a mystery ahead of the Group B match, having been re-laid after its last international game

in 2009 was abandoned due to an unplayable surface.

“It’s an unknown factor. We don’t really know what to expect,” Smith said.

Sammy added: “We will have to wait and see when the first ball is bowled to see how the pitch is going to react.” □

Woods knocked out in first round by Bjorn

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Ariz. — The slow road back for Tiger Woods took another detour Wednesday when he followed a clutch birdie with a shocking shot into the desert and lost to Thomas Bjorn in the first round of the Match Play Championship. It was only the second time that Woods, the No. 3 seed, had been eliminated in the first round. But this was stunning even to Woods. Moments after he made an 8-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to extend the match, he hit a 3-wood so far to the right that it landed in a desert bush.

It took two shots just to get it back onto the grass. After badly missing an 18-foot bogey putt, he conceded to Bjorn. "I blew it," Woods said.

Twice he had simple chips on the back nine and failed to convert them into birdies, losing his lead on the 13th and

falling behind on the 15th. He missed a 10-foot birdie on the 17th that he figured he should make "every time."

And then came No. 1, the first extra hole.

"It's easy to put the ball in the fairway and I couldn't even do that," Woods said, so visibly upset that he was stumbling over his words.

The other top seeds didn't have that much trouble.

Top-ranked Lee Westwood never trailed in his 3-and-2 victory over Henrik Stenson, while PGA champion Martin Kaymer had the shortest match of the opening round, a 7-and-6 win over 19-year-old Seung-yul Noh of South Korea. Phil Mickelson, the No. 4 seed who only decided to play this World Golf Championship two weeks ago, won 6-and-5 over Brendan Jones.

Woods had some company in going home early.

The Americans had four of the top 10 seeds at Dove Mountain, and Mickelson

is the only one left. Matteo Manassero, the 17-year-old Italian, became the youngest winner in this tournament with a 2-and-1 victory over eighth-seeded Steve Stricker, while Jim Furyk (No. 10) continued his struggles in losing to Ryan Palmer, who was making his Match Play debut.

The wild first day finally ended with a record eight matches going into extra holes, and four others going the distance.

Of the 32 players remaining, 13 are Americans, 13 are Europeans and two each are from Australia, South Africa and Asia. Coming off the worst season of his career, most of that from the crisis in his personal life, Woods does not appear to be making quick progress. Through three tournaments this year, he has failed to crack the top 20. Woods keeps talking about needing more repetition as he works on a new swing, although he is not playing



Thomas Bjorn, left, and Tiger Woods watch Bjorn's tee shot of the 17th hole during the first round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in Marana, Ariz. Bjorn won in 19 holes.

more tournaments. Asked if he might add the Honda Classic, Woods replied, "Probably now is not the time to ask me right now."

He next is likely to play the Cadillac Championship at Doral in two weeks, with Bay Hill two weeks after that. One possibility is the Transitions Championship outside Tampa, Fla., which is the week between Doral and Bay Hill. It was the second time Bjorn has beaten Woods head-to-head, although not in this format. Ten years ago, they went 72 holes together

in the Dubai Desert Classic, with Woods putting his shot into the water on the last hole to make double bogey. Bjorn was gracious in victory, saying that Woods is not playing "his absolute best right now," although he still saw some good swings.

Others piled on. When asked about the youth movement in golf, especially after Manassero won his match, Rory McIlroy said all the young players feel they are good enough to compete with the likes of Woods, Mickelson, Stricker and Furyk. □

Mario Ancic retires from tennis

SPLIT, Croatia (AP) — Mario Ancic will turn his focus from tennis to law after injury and illness forced him to end his playing career.

The 26-year-old Croat confirmed at a news conference in his hometown Split on Wednesday that he was retiring from professional tennis after 10 years because of a back injury.

"It was one of the toughest decisions I ever had to make," Ancic said. "I'm only 26 but my body said I would not be able to continue on a high level."

"I was advised to either undergo surgery or go through a conservative method, but I had no guarantee with either option."

Ancic graduated with a law degree from the University of Split in 2008. He wrote a thesis on the legal workings of the ATP.

Asked about his plans for the future, he replied: "I will continue practicing law."

Ancic first came to prominence in 2002 when



In this Feb. 16, 2008 file picture Croatia's Mario Ancic reacts after defeating Marcos Baghdatis from Cyprus during their semifinal match of the Open 13 tennis tournament, in Marseille, southern France.

he defeated seventh-seeded Roger Federer in the opening round of Wimbledon on his Grand Slam debut.

It was six years until Federer lost again at Wimbledon when he was beaten in the 2008 final by Rafael Nadal.

Ancic, nicknamed "Super Mario" by his fans, won three ATP titles. He reached a career-high ranking of No.

7 in 2006, two years after reaching the Wimbledon semifinals for his best Grand Slam result. He also won the decisive point for Croatia in 2005 when it won the Davis Cup for the first time.

However, he suffered from recurring mononucleosis in 2007 and lately has struggled with back and knee problems. □

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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Nets acquire Williams in trade

By LYNN DeBRUIN

AP Sports Writer

ALT LAKE CITY – The New Jersey Nets have acquired All-Star point guard Deron Williams from the Utah Jazz in exchange for rookie Derrick Favors and point guard Devin Harris.

The Jazz also will receive the Nets' first-round pick in 2011, which could be a lottery pick, and Golden State's 2012 first-round pick draft pick.

"We are very excited to add a player the caliber of Deron Williams to our roster," Nets general manager Billy King said Wednesday in confirming the blockbuster trade.

"He is one of the premier point guards in the NBA, and his skill and talent level will bolster our franchise as we continue to build towards our goal of becoming a championship-caliber team."

The 6-foot-3 Williams was selected third overall in the first round of the 2005 NBA draft by Utah from Illinois. He is in his sixth NBA season and holds career averages of 17.3 points, 3.2 rebounds, 9.1 assists and 1.0 steals in 35.6 minutes per game.

In 439 career games, including 406 starts, he has shot .466 (2,725-5,848) from the field, .358 (511-1,427) from three-point range and .808 (1,615-1,998) from the free throw line. In 44 career postseason games, Williams has averaged 21.1 points, 3.7 rebounds, 9.6 assists and 1.2 steals 40.4 minutes, while shooting .458 (308-672) from the field and .796 (238-299) from the line. Jazz general manager Kevin O'Connor also confirmed the deal, saying it was a "win-win" situation for both teams. "We feel that we've addressed a current need at point guard with Deron's departure, as well as the future with draft picks and a big man," said O'Connor. "To do so we had to give up an All-Star, but we feel like this is a win for both sides."

The deal comes two days after the Nets failed to land Carmelo Anthony, who was acquired by the New York Knicks as part of a blockbuster deal with the Denver Nuggets.

Harris, a former All-Star



FILE - This Jan. 26, 2011, file photo shows Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams, center, attempting to score over Spurs guard Tony Parker of France, left, and Spurs forward DeJuan Blair, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City..

Associated Press

point guard, and Favors, the No. 3 pick in the draft, were part of the package the Nets were offering the Nuggets all season for Anthony.

The Jazz were a perennial contender with Williams, but his reputation took a hit when Hall of Fame coach Jerry Sloan retired one day after clashing with him during a game.

Sloan, reached Wednesday morning at his second home in Illinois, was aware of the trade but didn't want to say much.

"I have no reaction to what the Jazz are doing. We wish him well," Sloan said of Williams. "We wish the Jazz well. Good luck to Deron."

Sloan then said he had to "go rake some leaves right now." Williams was expected to be one of the headliners of the 2012 free agent class along with 2008 Olympic teammates Dwight Howard and Chris Paul, and the small-market Jazz could have faced

losing him for nothing.

The Nets now hope Williams will sign a contract extension with them, which they can offer this summer.

If so, he would become the face of their franchise when they move into their new arena in Brooklyn for the 2012-13 season.

New Jersey has been desperate to make its first score under new owner Mikhail Prokhorov.

The Nets talked with LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh last summer and when that failed they turned their attention to Anthony. They quickly bounced back from the disappointment of missing out on him with Williams, who is averaging 21.3 points and 9.7 assists.

The trade was a stunner on the day before the NBA's trading deadline. Williams was expecting to play with the Mavs in his hometown of Dallas when the deal was agreed to. □



New York Knicks Carmelo Anthony, left, and Chauncey Billups respond to questions before NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press

Anthony says he is ready for expectations

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer NEW YORK – Carmelo Anthony was en route to the airport, headed for that unwanted return to Denver, when the call he waited for all season finally came.

The one that makes him a brighter star, and maybe the Knicks a bigger threat come playoff time.

"I think New York needed a moment like this," Anthony said.

So did Anthony.

After waiting since September while the Nuggets worked to send him to the only destination he wanted, Anthony finally arrived as a Knick on Wednesday, telling a packed news conference he is the right kind of person to deal with New York.

"Is it going to be an easy transition for me? No.

Is it going to be a lot of challenges? Yes. Is there going to be a lot of expectations? Yes," he said. "But I'm willing to accept all of them challenges."

The Knicks are betting on it, trading away four of their top players as part of a three-team, 13-player blockbuster that was completed Tuesday. All the players completed their physicals Wednesday, making Anthony eligible to make his Knicks debut against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Now wearing No. 7, Anthony took part in New York's short workout and was in the

starting lineup along with fellow newcomer Chauncey Billups.

"I felt like I was still coming in just for a shootaround on an opposing team," Anthony said. "It didn't really sink in yet — the fact that I'm a New York Knick. I feel like I'm still dreaming right now."

Anthony, who signed a three-year, \$65 million extension before the deal was completed, will join fellow All-Star Amare Stoudemire in the frontcourt, giving the Knicks the potent duo they hoped they could assemble last summer in free agency.

Referring to the high price the Knicks paid, Anthony said, "I'm pretty sure if any of you guys were GMs or owners, you would want me and Amare on the same team as well. I don't know who would turn that down."

Anthony decided last summer he wanted out of Denver, the team that drafted him third overall in 2003.

The Brooklyn native wanted the deal to New York, in part for the opportunities it will present he and his actress wife, La La Vazquez, who was among the crowd that filled the lobby of the Theater at Madison Square Garden.

But Anthony made it clear his focus is on Madison Square Garden's basketball court, where he averaged 30.4 points in his visits with Denver, just behind Kobe Bryant's 30.5 for best among active players. □

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NHL Roundup

Doan, Coyotes outlast Flyers, 3-2, in OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Shane Doan scored an overtime power-play goal as the Phoenix Coyotes won their eighth straight game by beating the Eastern Conference-leading Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 on Tuesday. Doan slapped a shot past Sergei Bobrovsky at 2:41 of overtime after Philadelphia's Claude Giroux tied it with 1:13 left in regulation. Doan was playing in his 1,098th game with the Winnipeg/Phoenix franchise, tying him with Teppo Numminen for first on the list. Taylor Pyatt put Phoenix up 2-1 with 9:30 left in the third. **Canadiens 3, Canucks 2** At Vancouver, British Columbia, David Desharnais and Brian Gionta scored 67 seconds apart early in the first period, and Carey Price made 12 of his 37 saves in the third as Montreal won in Vancouver for the first time in over a decade. Andrei Kostitsyn ended a 12-game goal drought, despite being demoted to the fourth line. Mikael Samuelsson and Henrik Sedin scored power-play goals, and Roberto Luongo made 22 saves as the Canucks lost at home in regulation for the fifth time this season. Vancouver's lead atop the NHL is down to one point over Eastern Conference-leading Philadelphia, and five ahead of Detroit in the West. **Rangers 4, Hurricanes 3, SO** At Raleigh, North Carolina, Wojtek Wolski scored the tying goal with 1:50 left in regulation and then netted the only goal in the

shootout to rally the New York Rangers past Carolina. Henrik Lundqvist stopped all three shootout attempts by Carolina, which squandered a 43-save night by Cam Ward and missed a chance to tie New York for seventh place in the Eastern Conference. Lundqvist stopped 30 shots through overtime for the Rangers, who were 2-7-1 in their previous 10. He then denied Jeff Skinner, Jussi Jokinen and Sergei Samsonov in the shootout. Jokinen scored two third-period goals to give Carolina its first lead, but Wolski tied it late. **Maple Leafs 2, Islanders 1** At Toronto, Phil Kessel's goal with less than five minutes to play snapped a tie and gave Toronto a win over the New York Islanders. Clarke MacArthur had the other goal for Toronto, 7-2-2 since the All-Star break. Matt Moulson scored for the Islanders, giving him four goals in two days. **Blue Jackets 4, Predators 0** At Columbus, Ohio, Steve Mason made 20 saves for his 18th NHL shutout and Rick Nash scored two of Columbus' four third-period goals against Nashville. Nash, Matt Calvert and Antoine Vermette scored in a 8:38 span early in the third to help the Blue Jackets move within two points of eighth place in the Western Conference. Fedor Tyutin and Kris Russell each added two assists for Columbus. Mason has shut out the Predators twice this season. **Sharks 4, Red Wings 3** At Detroit, Joe Thornton

scored his 300th career goal and Devin Setoguchi had two as San Jose held on to beat Detroit. Henrik Zetterberg scored a power-play goal with 1:51 left to pull the Red Wings within a goal, but they couldn't beat Antti Niemi again to force overtime. Ryane Clowe scored on a breakaway midway through the game and Niemi made 35 saves for the Sharks, who have won four straight and 13 of 16. Detroit's Danny Cleary scored game-tying goals early in the second and at 14:42 of the period. Jimmy Howard stopped 39 shots for the Red Wings, who had won a season-high five consecutive games. **Devils 1, Stars 0** At Dallas, Nick Palmieri scored a power-play goal with 5:37 left and Johan Hedberg stopped 19 shots for his 17th NHL shutout as New Jersey extended its season-high winning streak to eight by beating Dallas. With newly acquired Dallas defenseman Alex Goligoski **In other NHL games it was N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 3, SO; Toronto 2, N.Y. Islanders 1; Phoenix 3, Philadelphia 2, OT; Columbus 4, Nashville 0; San Jose 4, Detroit 3; Minnesota 4, Edmonton 1; Colorado 4, St. Louis 3; New Jersey 1, Dallas 0; Boston 3, Calgary 1; and Montreal 3, Vancouver 2.** □

Read Aruba Today



The game-winning goal by Phoenix Coyotes' Shane Doan goes in the net past Philadelphia Flyers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky in overtime of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, in Philadelphia. The Coyotes won 3-2. *Associated Press*

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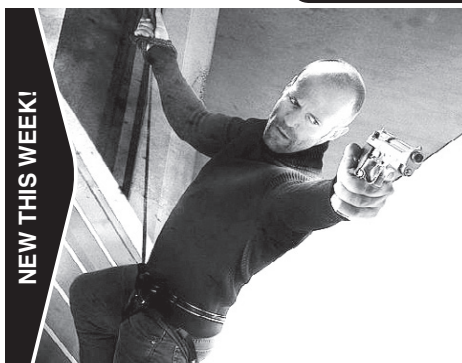
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R



Martin Lawrence Brandon T. Jackson

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Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
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PG-13

Alex Pettyfer Timothy Olyphant

I AM NUMBER FOUR

Mon - Thurs 4:45 / 7:10 / 9:35
Fri 4:45 / 7:10 / 9:35 / 11:55
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PG-13

Colin Firth Helena Bonham Carter

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R

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3D VERSION

Mon - Thurs 4:35 / 9:10
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R

Anthony Hopkins Colin O'Donoghue

THE RITE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

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Sun & Hol 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:15

PG-13

JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER

3D

Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
Fri 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 11:15
Sat 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 11:15
Sun & Hol 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00

G

Jennifer Aniston Adam Sandler

Just Go With It

Mon - Thurs 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
Fri 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50
Sat 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50
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PG-13

Dan Aykroyd Justin Timberlake

YOGI BEAR

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REGULAR VERSION

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PG

Leighton Meester Cam Gigandet

THE ROOMMATE

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PG-13

STARTING NEXT WEEK MARCH 3 - UNKNOWN



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell arrives for football labor negotiations with the NFL Players Association involving a federal mediator, Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, in Washington.

Associated Press

NFL

Continued from Page B1

Former Chicago Bears safety Dave Duerson died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest, and The New York Times reported that he asked that his brain be examined for chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a degenerative disease caused by repeated blows to the head that is tied to depression, dementia and suicide.

The Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University School of Medicine, which will study Duerson's brain for signs of the disease, says that more than 300 athletes, including 100 current and former NFL players, are on its brain donation registry.

The effort is part of a shift by the NFL, which for years has been on the defensive from Congress and the media about how it handled head injuries. As recently as 2009, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell was grilled by lawmakers when he would not acknowledge a connection between head injuries on the football field and later brain diseases.

Goodell told lawmakers that he was "changing the culture" of football when it came to player safety, and last season, the NFL started slapping players with five-figure fines for illegal hits in an attempt to cut down on serious head injuries. Goodell says he has committed "substantial resources" to getting the youth concussion laws passed across the country, although the league said it didn't have an estimate on what the effort will cost.

The league says it has an obligation to use its clout to help cut down on concussions among America's youth. But it also wants to keep a large pool of potential players healthy.

"We're fortunate that we have more than 3.4 million young athletes playing football, and we want to continue to keep our player source strong and keep it large," said Joe Browne, a senior adviser to Goodell.

There are other motivations as well, said Gabe Feldman, director of the Sports Law Program at Tulane University Law School.

"There's no question that some of this is a PR play, that the NFL, like any league, is always looking to protect the image of the game," he said. "But it's also a lot more than that. They're also protecting their product" by helping to minimize concussions in their future players.

About 135,000 children between the ages of 5 and 18 are treated in emergency rooms each year for sports- or recreation-related concussions and other head injuries.

The legislation the league favors is modeled on Washington state's "Zackery Lystedt Law," named for a middle school football player who suffered brain damage in 2006 after he had a concussion and returned to the game.

That law requires coaches to remove any player who shows signs of a concussion, and bars the player from competing again until cleared by a licensed health care professional trained in concussion evaluation and management. So far, nine states including Washington have passed such laws, according to the NFL. □

Japan company developing sensors for seniors

YURI KAGEYAMA,
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's top telecoms company is developing a simple wristwatch-like device to monitor the well-being of the elderly, part of a growing effort to improve care of the old in a nation whose population is aging faster than anywhere else.

The device, worn like a watch, has a built-in camera, microphone and accelerometer, which measure the pace and direction of hand movements to discern what wearers are doing — from brushing their teeth to vacuuming or making coffee.

In a demonstration at Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.'s research facility, the test subject's movements were collected as data that popped up as lines on a graph — with each kind of activity

showing up as different patterns of lines. Using this technology, what an elderly person is doing during each hour of the day can be shown on a chart.

The prototype was connected to a personal computer for the demonstration, but researchers said such data could also be relayed by wireless or stored in a memory card to be looked at later. Plans for commercial use are still undecided. But similar sensors are being tested around the world as tools for elderly care.

In the U.S., the Institute on Aging at the University of Virginia has been carrying out studies in practical applications of what it calls "body area sensor networks" to promote senior independent living. What's important is that wearable sensors be easy to use, unobtrusive, ergonomic



In this Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011 photo, Nippon Telegraph and Telegram Corp. Communications Science Laboratories staff imitates to brush his teeth during a demonstration of a wearable sensor attached to a wristwatch-like device during the NTT Research and Development Forum in Tokyo. Japan's top telecom company NTT says using this technology, what an elderly person is doing during each hour of the day can be shown on a chart

Associated Press

Noble, Facebook hound sensation, meets his man

SUEMANNING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Noble is a four-legged Facebook star with thousands of friends. Sam is a 23-year-old Marine who was paralyzed in a car accident.

After months, the two have been matched.

Noble, a golden retriever, was raised from a pup and trained as a service dog as his online fans logged in every day, sharing stories and offering words of encouragement.

Sam Farr, 23, joined the Marines right out of high school. He was on duty in North Carolina two years ago when the car he was in went out of control and over a cliff, partially severing his spinal cord.

It would be a month before he woke from a coma in a Georgia hospital. He was paralyzed, unable to use his hands or walk. During Farr's rehabilitation, volunteers from a group called Canine Assistants visited the hospital



This undated photo courtesy of David C. Scott shows Sam Farr, 23, and his golden retriever Noble, a service dog. Farr said he hopes he and Noble can go to school and they are planning a Caribbean cruise. They've only known each other a few weeks, but Farr said Noble already knows when he's feeling bad.

Associated Press

with service dogs that would lick Farr's hand. When Farr was asked if he'd like a dog, he said yes.

It was more than 18 months of hard work for both before they met a few weeks ago.

"He jumped straight in my lap and started licking me in the face," Farr said. "They brought two other dogs. I had

to continually give the other dogs treats to get them to respond to me. With Noble, I didn't have to do that."

Only after they knew it was a match did Canine Assistants tell Farr about Noble's Facebook fame. "They asked me if I knew anything about Facebook and I said, 'I am the king of Facebook.'" □

and even stylish, according to the institute, based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Costs, safety and privacy issues are also key.

Despite the potential for such technology in Japan, a nation filled with electronics and technology companies, NTT President Satoshi Miura said Japan is likely falling behind global rivals in promoting practical uses.

Worries are growing the Japanese government has not been as generous with funding and other support to allow the technology to grow into a real business, despite the fact that Japan is among the world's most advanced in the proliferation of broadband.

More than 90 percent of Japan's households are equipped with either optic fibers or fast-speed mobile connections. "But how to use the technology is the other side of the story," Miura said in a presentation. "We will do our best in the private sector, but I hope the government will help." Nintendo Co.'s Wii game-console remote-

controller is one exception of such sensors becoming a huge business success.

But that's video-game entertainment, not social welfare.

George Demiris, associate professor at the School of Medicine at the University of Washington, in Seattle, says technology for the elderly is complex, requiring more than just coming up with sophisticated technology. Getting too much data, for instance, could simply burden already overworked health care professionals, and overly relying on technology could even make the elderly miserable, reducing opportunities for them to interact with real people, he said. "Having more data alone does not mean we will have better care for older adults," Demiris said in an e-mail.

"We can have the most sophisticated technology in place, but if the response at the other end is not designed to address what the data show in a timely and efficient way, the technology itself is not useful," he said. □

The i(Pad)s of March:

Apple plans tablet event

DANA WOLLMAN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — March Madness could take on a whole new meaning if Apple gives the world another iPad next week. Apple Inc. is expected to unveil the second generation of its wildly successful media tablet, widening its head start against competitors just starting to sell their first tablet computers. The Cupertino, California-based company e-mailed invitations to a media event in San Francisco Wednesday that show a calendar page with the corner peeling away to reveal an iPad underneath. The large “2” on the calendar page denotes the event’s March 2 date, but is also a hint that Apple is about to announce the follow-up to the original iPad.

The iPad, about the size of a large book, has been likened to an overgrown iPhone or iPod Touch, as it is powered by similar software and can run the same applications, or “apps.” But it has a bigger screen that makes reading e-mails, surfing the Web and watching movies easier on the eyes. With a starting price of \$499, it’s less expensive than many computers and, at 1.5 pounds (680 grams), it also weighs less. Unlike small, inexpensive laptops such as netbooks, the iPad turns on instantly, so people don’t have to wait through a sluggish boot-up. And the iPad also lasts about 10 hours unplugged, making it ideal for travelers and other people on the go. Apple sold more than 15 million iPads in its first nine months on sale, including 7.3 million to holiday shoppers during the October-December quarter — about a million more for the quarter than analysts were expecting. Since the iPad’s launch, other consumer electronics makers have been scrambling to develop tablets of their own. For example, Samsung Electronics Co. began selling the Galaxy Tab last year, and Motorola Mobility Inc.’s Xoom tablet goes on sale this week. Many of these new



In this Nov. 26, 2010 file photo, a store employee holds up an iPad at an Apple Store in San Francisco. Apple Inc. is expected to unveil the second generation of its wildly successful media tablet, widening its head start against competitors just starting to sell their first tablet computers.

tablets run Google Inc.’s Android software. The iPad is the first tablet computer to win over mainstream consumers. A decade earlier, PC makers were selling tablets that ran Windows, the same operating systems found on most full-fledged PCs. While some businesses bought them, they never sold well among consumers. These tablets were heavier and had shorter battery lives. They were also more difficult to use as touch-screen devices, as Windows was meant to be used with a mouse and keyboard. Apple’s iPad software, meanwhile, was designed from the start to be touched.

As usual, Apple has not said anything about the highly anticipated next version of the iPad, leaving rumors to swirl unchecked online. Some bloggers have speculated that the new iPad will have a front-facing camera, which would allow people to hold video chats using services such as Skype. If that were the case, its design would more closely match the iPhone 4, which went on sale last June with a front-facing camera and Apple’s own video chatting software, called FaceTime. Others have speculated that the new iPad will be thinner and lighter than the original, and will come with a bigger built-in speaker. □

Associated Press

Global box office up 8 pct on 3-D, overseas growth

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Movie ticket revenue from theaters around the world hit a new high of \$31.8 billion in 2010, an 8 percent increase from a year ago, driven by international growth and the popularity of 3-D movies, the Motion Picture Association of America said Wednesday. Asian ticket revenue grew the most in dollar terms, rising \$1.5 billion, or 21 percent, to \$8.7 billion. More than 40 percent of that growth came from the boom in movie-going in China, the MPAA said. However, association president Bob Pisano complained that tight restrictions on foreign films in China crimp profits despite the

popularity of Hollywood movies. “The Chinese box office market is just doing gangbusters,” Pisano told reporters on a conference call. “Hopefully at some point in the near term, people who import films into China will be able to enjoy the financial rewards.” Theatrical revenue in the U.S. and Canada was flat at \$10.6 billion, while in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, revenue grew 5 percent to \$10.4 billion. Latin American revenue grew 25 percent to \$2.1 billion. In North America, 3-D releases accounted for 21 percent of revenue, up from 11 percent a year ago, bolstered by ticket upcharges, more 3-D-ready screens, and an increase in the number of 3-D movies to 25 from 20 a year earlier. □



Oil prices hit \$100 per barrel



A sign advertises gas and diesel prices, plus gives an explanation to customers, at a service station in Easthampton, Mass., Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011. Oil prices rose past \$99 a barrel on Wednesday as forces loyal to Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi clashed with protesters expanding their control over parts of the country.

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices hit \$100 per barrel for the first time since 2008, driven by growing concerns

about global supplies, as Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi continued to lose his grip on the oil-rich country. Similar uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt earlier this month already had markets on edge before protests escalated in Libya, which has the biggest oil reserves in Africa. The rebellion widened Wednesday as protesters overwhelmed government buildings and advanced around Tripoli, the capital. West Texas Intermediate crude for April delivery jumped \$2.68, or 2.8 percent, to settle at \$98.10 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the day, prices hit triple digits for the first time since Oct. 2, 2008. WTI has soared 18 percent since mid-February. In London, Brent crude added \$5.47, or 5 percent, at \$111.25 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. French oil giant Total said it started to wind down its oil production in Libya, which produced an average of 55,000 barrels per day last

year. That follows similar moves by other oil companies working in the country. Libya’s biggest oil producer, Eni, idled operations that produce 244,000 barrels of oil and gas per day. Spain’s Repsol-YPF and Austrian oil company OMV also suspended operations. Germany’s Wintershall said it suspended operations that produced up to 100,000 barrels of oil per day. Evacuations of oil company employees and their families continue. Barclays Capital estimates that as much as 1 million barrels per day of production has been shut down so far. In January, Libya produced almost 1.7 million barrels per day of oil and natural gas liquids, according to the International Energy Agency. The production losses will be felt mostly in Europe. Ireland relies on Libya for 23 percent of its oil imports and 22 percent of Italy’s oil imports are from Libya. The U.S. imported only about 51,000 barrels per day from Libya,

less than 1 percent of its total crude imports. The International Energy Agency and Saudi Arabia have both pledged to make additional oil available to cover any shortfall in world supplies, but that hasn’t eased tensions in oil markets. Larry Goldstein, a director at the Energy Policy Research Foundation in Washington, said Libya’s oil is a high-quality variety that produces valuable petroleum products like gasoline, jet fuel and diesel. Some refineries won’t be able to run on Saudi Arabia’s lower-grade crude, so a sustained shut down in Libya could start a bidding war for comparable kinds of crude. “That would raise product prices immediately,” Goldstein said. Analysts say concerns about violence in North Africa and the Middle East have added a “fear premium” of about \$10 per barrel of oil. The rise has pushed retail gasoline prices higher in the U.S. despite ample supplies in most parts of the country. □

Bond prices fall after \$35B note auction

billion in five-year notes. The price of the 10-year Treasury note slipped 25 cents per \$100 invested. Its yield, which moves in the opposite direction, rose to 3.49 percent from 3.46 percent late Tuesday. Short-term and medium-term bonds pared back their gains from Tuesday, when concerns over escalating tension in Libya led traders to seek safer investments. The 30-year bond still drew interest, pushing its price higher. Investors are also considering the potential economic effects of a spike in oil prices caused by spreading unrest in North Africa and the



Traders work the crude oil options pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011 in New York.

JANNA HERRON
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Treasury prices mostly dipped Wednesday after tepid demand at an auction of \$35

Associated Press

Middle East. “In the background, you have concerns over oil prices which could debilitate the consumer and hurt the economy,” said John Spinello, a bond strategist at Jefferies & Co. The recent rally in Treasury prices, and the subsequent decline in yields, dulled enthusiasm for Wednesday’s five-year note auction. Spinello characterized the auction as “sloppy.” Investors “shied away from the low yields,” he said. Demand at a \$35 billion auction of two-year notes the day before was also relatively weak. An auction for \$29 billion in seven-year notes is set for Thursday. □

Moody’s puts Bahrain credit ratings on review



Workers high on a Manama, Bahrain, office tower Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, remove a full-length advertisement for the Formula 1 Grand Prix that was to have been held March 11-13 in Bahrain but was canceled amid unrest.

TAREK EL-TABLAUWY
AP Business Writer

CAIRO (AP) — Credit ratings agency Moody’s Investors Service placed Bahrain’s A3 government rating on review for possible downgrade on Wednesday as the tiny kingdom grapples with anti-government protests that have already toppled two entrenched leaders in other Arab countries. Rival Standard & Poor’s also cut its rating for Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corp. amid worries over its exposure to Libya — the country’s central bank holds an almost 60 percent stake. Announcements from the major agencies are coming

Associated Press

thick and fast as the region reels from popular uprisings that have already brought down the governments in Egypt and Tunisia and are threatening the regime of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. As anti-regime unrest has ripped through the Arab world, ratings agencies have aggressively cut their assessments for various countries and banks, casting a cloud over the investment climate in a region that was in the midst of a solid rebound from the global economic meltdown in 2008. Agencies have cut ratings for several Arab nations, including Egypt, Bahrain, Libya and Tunisia.

Venezuela: No international petroleum supply problems

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela’s energy minister said he believes the international oil market is well supplied despite unrest in the Middle East, a state-run newspaper reported on Wednesday. Rafael Ramirez, who also serves as the president of Venezuela’s state-run oil company, said he spoke recently with Saudi Arabia’s oil minister, Ali Naimi, and they agreed the world’s biggest fuel consumers currently have enough reserves. El Correo del Orinoco, a state-financed and operated newspaper, posted Ramirez’s comments on its website. “The big consumers accumulate large

petroleum reserves in their storage facilities,” the newspaper quoted Ramirez as saying. Libya is the first of the OPEC member states to be hit by the wave of unrest that has led to the ouster of the leaders of Tunisia and Egypt. The violent uprising against Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, an ally of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, sent crude prices to almost \$94 per barrel on electronic trading in the New York Mercantile Exchange on Wednesday. The London-based Brent benchmark crude contract is already above \$106 per barrel. Venezuela is a founding member of OPEC, which supplies about 35 percent of the world’s crude oil. □

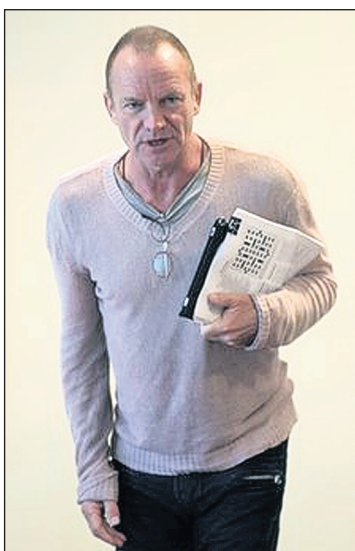
Judge tells Lindsay Lohan plea deal will mean jail



LOS ANGELES – A judge told Lindsay Lohan he would sentence her to jail if she accepted a plea deal from prosecutors to avoid trial for allegedly stealing a \$2,500 necklace from an upscale jewelry store. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz tersely told the troubled starlet what she could expect if she pleaded guilty or no contest in the felony case. “If you plead in front of me, if this case is resolved in front of me, you are going to jail,” Schwartz said. “Period.” But if she rejects the deal, and a judge determines there’s enough evidence to order her to stand trial, she could be punished because she was still on probation for a 2007 drunken driving case when the necklace was stolen. That could mean Lohan who has pleaded not guilty is sentenced to jail before the theft case is even tried. The “Mean Girls” star wore high-waisted white pants and a low-cut black top, and sat reading papers while prosecutors offered her attorney, Shawn Holley, the terms of the plea deal in a closed chambers meeting with Schwartz. Prosecutors declined to say what they offered, but Schwartz said he didn’t think Lohan would accept it. Lohan told the judge she understood his comments, and left the courtroom clutching her mother’s hand. □

Sting troubled by violence in Libya

LIMA, Peru – Sting says he is concerned by violence and repression in Libya and hopes peace will return to the troubled country. The British singer calls Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi a man trying to hold on to power unjustly amid protests and a crackdown by security forces. In the entertainer’s words, “Things like this should be handled just like in Egypt and Tunisia.” Similar protests in those two northern African nations recently forced out strongman rulers. Sting also says the West “should start treating the Arab culture (in) a better way.” He spoke Tuesday in Peru’s capital, where he has a concert scheduled. □



Thanks Lady Gaga!

Oscar fashion goes bold

LOS ANGELES – Taking a tip from music stars Lady Gaga and Nicki Minaj, Hollywood’s A-list actresses are expected to turn up on Oscar’s red carpet in many bold, futuristic designs, fashion experts predict. The eye toward the future marks a turnaround from recent years in which styles at Hollywood’s biggest awards shows have featured vintage gowns, subdued designs and colors, and less jewelry in a nod to the world’s economic woes. But with consumer confidence up, Hollywood’s top female actresses will be wearing distinctive gowns highlighted by draping and accented shoulders and sleeves. Expect a wide array of colors, from

pale shades and skin tones to bold purples, oranges, midnight blues and classic black. Designer Marc Bouwer said this year’s futuristic fashions are influenced by some of the “out-there” costumes of pop music superstars like Lady Gaga, Minaj and now Britney Spears as seen in her latest video, “Hold It Against Me.” “Artists are starting to dress much more crazy, more out there and it has a ripple effect on fashion,” said Bouwer. “While you won’t see a Lady Gaga outfit necessarily on the Oscar red carpet, you will see more architectural styles -- an expanded shoulder, a pronounced sleeve. The stronger power woman has emerged, and you cannot



ignore that trend.” Styles on the red carpet ahead of the world’s top film honors are expected to be similar to those debuting last month at Hollywood’s Golden Globe Awards. At that show, “Glee” star Lea Michelle dazzled fashionistas in a pink asymmetrical Oscar de la Renta gown, and other actresses such as Nicole Kidman, Michelle Williams and Scarlet Johansson turned up in skin tones and pale shades of rose. □

In London

Fashion Week steeped Kate-mania



LONDON – Over-sized boyfriend cardigans, vibrantly colored knits, 1960s-inspired collections and speculation over who is making Kate Middleton’s wedding dress set the autumn/winter 2011 tone at London Fashion Week. Veteran London designer Paul Smith said he went back to his menswear roots for his latest women’s collection, showing an updated Annie Hall-like style twinning oversized coats and cardigans with sharply cut trousers that ended above the ankles. “I’d been designing clothes for men for many years, and when I started designing clothes for women, it was the girls buying the boys’ clothes

basically, a jacket, a shirt, a raincoat, a big sweater,” Smith told Reuters. “And people have been asking me, we need that DNA back.” He said he didn’t know who was designing Middleton’s dress for her April 29 wedding to Britain’s Prince William, but that the future royal’s good looks and easy grace won’t make the burden of being in the media spotlight any easier for her. “Talking about Kate, she’s a good-looking woman. Whether she’ll have the same style icon image as Lady Di I’m not sure but certainly she’s got a tough job ahead of her,” he said. London’s grande dame of the designer set, Vivienne

Westwood produced a Wonderland-themed collection for her diffusion Red Label autumn/winter 2011 collection which mixed vibrant plaids with earth-toned cardigans, suits with dramatically cut jackets and shorts cut mid-thigh, alongside some glittering glam pieces. Westwood told reporters she was most definitely not designing Middleton’s dress and that the commoner who may one day be a queen had some way to go before she was Westwood-ready. “I would have loved to have dressed Kate Middleton but I have to wait until she kind of catches up a bit somewhere with style,” Westwood told reporters. Brazilian-born Daniella Issa Helayel, whose blue gown Middleton wore when she and William announced their engagement, offered a hip 1960s-inspired show of bright reds, muted greys and blues, floor length gowns, short dresses, a princess dress-coat and a jumpsuit with a silver double helix pattern. □

Brazil dump doc vies for Oscar



RIO DE JANEIRO – A truck loaded with trash climbs a mountain of garbage, scattering a hoard of vultures. As it spills out its load, men and women reach into the stream for tin cans, plastic bottles, paper anything they might sell as the vultures swoop back in, fighting for scraps of food. This landfill, one of the world's largest, operates 24 hours, seven days a week, taking in more than 9,000 tons of garbage daily from Rio de Janeiro and four other cities. With organized recycling still in its infancy in Brazil, most salvaging of reusable materials from Rio's trash happens here,

through the heavy, dirty work of about 5,000 "catadores," or trash pickers. After decades of anonymity, the workers of the Gramacho Municipal Landfill have been catapulted to fame by a collaboration with Brazilian artist Vik Muniz, who used the trash they sort to create portraits of the pickers. A documentary recording that experience is now vying for an Oscar. On Feb. 27th, the recyclers plan to watch the awards show from the community of plywood, tin and cardboard shacks where many of them live, a short walk from the dump. □

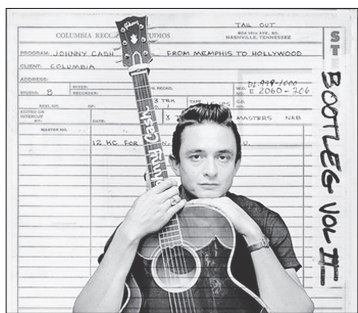
Cash is the man, his times

Johnny Cash, "From Memphis to Hollywood: Bootleg Vol. 2," (Columbia/Legacy)

Who is that man with the deep, twangy voice pitching the products of Home Equipment Co.? He beseeches you: Buy aluminum screens, wire fences, awnings, fiberglass insulation. "You know, folks," he says, "even without air conditioning you can make your home several degrees cooler this summer and for the summers to come with Home Equipment Co.'s Cool-Glo Awnings."

So sayeth Johnny Cash. And not just any Johnny Cash the 23-year-old Cash of May 21, 1955, coming to you from the mists of country-music history on KWEM-AM 990, back when his backing band, the Tennessee Three, was the Tennessee Two.

"From Memphis to Hollywood," Columbia/Legacy's latest Cash "bootlegs" is drawn, like its predecessor, from material in the House of Cash estate. A



chronicle of his first 15 years at Sun and Columbia records, its trove of Cash arcana, B-sides and unreleased demos takes you from the very earliest captured moments of the Man in Black's career from 1955 all the way into his high country stardom of the late 1960s. Good music all, but it is the front-end tracks from the dawn of the Cash career that captivate the ear over and over again. You find yourself marveling that the elder statesman of the reflective "American" series in the final years of his life was once this young man, with his rebellious streak poking through and his peak years ahead of him. □

In new NYC case

Thurman stalker seeks plea deal

NEW YORK – Uma Thurman's convicted stalker is trying to work out a plea deal on charges that he tried to contact her again after a judge declined to toss out or pare down the new case. Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro said there was enough evidence to support the new contempt, stalking and other charges against Jack Jordan, who had been ordered to stay away from the "Pulp Fiction" actress. Jordan's lawyer and prosecutors said they were discussing the potential for a plea deal but haven't reached any agreement. A psychiatric treatment program is a possibility, said Jordan's lawyer, Sam Roberts. In the meantime, Jordan, 39, remains jailed on \$500,000 bond. He said nothing during brief court hearing. A former lifeguard and pool cleaner who studied for a master's degree in English, Jordan has acknowledged a fixation on Thurman that



began when he saw her in the 1988 movie "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen." He was involuntarily committed to a mental hospital in 2005 after being questioned about his obsession with the Academy Award-nominated "Kill Bill" star, he has said. He was convicted in 2008 of stalking and harassing Thurman by showing up at her Manhattan home, trying to get into her trailer on a movie set, calling her family and employees and sending eerie letters with such messages as "my hands should be on

your body at all times." He was sentenced to three years' probation and told not to try to contact her for five years. But prosecutors say he did just that twice in October, calling some of her phone lines, demanding to speak to her and bewailing her romance with Swiss financier Arpad "Arki" Busson. Jordan called a New York police station a few days later, asking whether he was wanted by police and acknowledging he'd called Thurman's home, according to court papers filed by prosecutors. He was arrested in November at his family's home in North Potomac, Md., where officers found him sitting in front of a computer screen with "Uma Thurman j'adore" in a Google search box, court papers say. Jordan's lawyer says the new charges are excessive, particularly felony contempt charges that entail instilling or trying to instill "reasonable fear of physical injury" and death. □

Oscar telecast nixing montages



LOS ANGELES—As preparations for next Sunday's Academy Awards move into high gear, the show's producers have booted a number of familiar elements. Gone will be the movie montages like last year's salute to horror movies that often contribute to the broadcast's unwieldy running time. While there will be film clips from the ten best picture nominees and brief filmed introductions to different segments of the show, "Within the body of the show, we are not doing any film montage sequences," said Bruce Cohen, who will

produce with Don Mischer. Gone too will be the relatively new tradition, established just two years ago, of using five presenters to offer tribute testimonials about each of the best actor and actress nominees. "We're not going to do that this year," Cohen told the Hollywood Reporter. "What we did love about it was that it was a moment where each of the nominees really gets their due. (But) we found a version of that, without using the five people on stage, from the 1970 Oscars, and we stole it." The producers also have

enlisted the nominees' mothers to participate in promotion and pre-show activities, and some of them will be in the audience for the telecast.

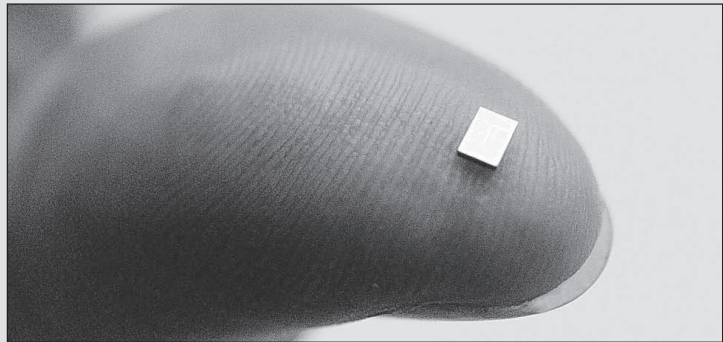
This year's producing team is restoring individual performances of the four nominated songs, which were eliminated last year.

Producers were upset that Cher, a major audience draw, was not nominated for her Burlesque ballad, "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me." "We were surprised, and we were disappointed," Cohen says when of the song, which won its composer Diane Warren a Golden Globe but failed to earn an Academy nomination.

They have lined up most of the other names associated with the songs that were nominated, though: Oscar perennial Randy Newman will perform his "We Belong Together" from "Toy Story 3." □



Chip detects cancerous tumors within one hour



Scientists say they have developed a microchip that can be attached to a smart phone and diagnose cancerous tumors within an hour, from the patient's bedside.

The so-called microNMR chip, which uses magnetic nanoparticles to measure proteins and other chemical compounds in tumors, requires only tiny amounts of tissue to make a diagnosis, researchers said. Instead of more invasive methods, the biopsy can be done with fine needle aspiration, which withdraws cells from suspicious lesions.

"We tried to determine a molecular fingerprint, if you will," said study co-author Jered B. Haun, a postdoctoral researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. "It was a nice surprise just how well it worked with all the protein markers. One of our big goals was not only to be able to tell patients they have cancer as accurately as possible, but as quickly as possible."

The study, which was funded by grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, is published in the Feb. 23 issue of the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Using the microchip which can be hooked up to smart phones such as iPhones and Blackberrys researchers analyzed tissue samples from 50 patients with suspected malignancies, correctly diagnosing cancer in 44 patients within 60 minutes in 96 percent of cases by zoning in on four of nine protein markers. In contrast, standard pathology methods typically require three or more days to produce a diagnosis and are only 84 percent accurate, the researchers noted.

Study participants, whose average age was 64, had suspicious lesions in a variety of organs, including the lungs, colon, pancreas, liver and breasts, and were already scheduled to receive biopsies for abnormal stomach tissue. Their results were validated with traditional pathology which also didn't assess differences in tumor cell types as well as the microchip along with an independent group of 20 additional patients, Haun said. The microchip diagnoses in the additional group were 100 percent accurate, according to the study.

"False negatives and non-diagnostic samples are both at higher incidence with standard pathology," Huan said. "Since the [microchip-tested] sample size is so small, we take small aspirants of different areas of the tumor to get a more global view of the results," which can also impact treatment requirements. Huan and the other study authors reported no financial conflicts of interest. Dr. Moritz Kircher, a diagnostic radiologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, said he envisions the microchip eventually being used to diagnose an array of malignancies, both internal and external. □

Laser technology might help doctors

Diagnosing melanoma gets easier

Researchers say they've developed a new and potentially more accurate way to diagnose melanoma lesions, using laser technology.

The laser equipment spots key differences in pigmentation between healthy skin and cancerous tissue, the team explained.

As currently envisioned, the new screening procedure would still require excision of suspicious moles (otherwise known as a tissue biopsy) before the laser-imaging diagnosis could be attempted. However, preliminary indications suggest that the approach will be more precise than current screening procedures, which can often leave patients with inconclusive results and unnecessary surgeries. Researchers from Duke University's Center for Molecular and Biomolecular Imaging (CMBI) in Durham, N.C., discuss the technique in the Feb. 23 issue of *Science Translational Medicine*. The work was funded by a grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health.



Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, and the fifth- and sixth-most common cancer overall for American men and women, respectively, according to background information in the study. In 2009, over 68,000 new cases of melanoma were diagnosed in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society, and about 8,700 patients died from the disease. Pathologists have been somewhat frustrated by standard techniques designed to catch the disease, the study authors noted. These techniques include the use of a light and magnifying glass and the removal and analysis in the laboratory of sample cells. The researchers pointed out that even lab analysis yields only about 85 percent diagnostic accuracy.

The Duke research team, including CMBI director Warren S. Warren and Duke graduate student Thomas Matthews, tried out the lasers on 42 skin slices, pumping two beams smaller than those emitted by everyday laser pointers at the target moles. The laser energy that was absorbed shifted around the sampled skin cells, highlighting microscopic differences in skin pigmentation.

Because melanoma cells happen to have more of a particular pigment called "eumelanin" than do healthy cells, this dynamic allowed the researchers to easily identify signs of cancer. The method was 100 percent accurate in identifying all 11 cases of melanoma present in the test slides, the study authors said in a university news release.

The Duke team noted that testing is ongoing, including an effort to develop a method that would allow dermatologists to laser screen for melanoma without the need for the lesion to be removed. □

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Líderes latinoamericanos reaccionan ante crisis en Libia

MANAGUA (AP) - Mientras Fidel Castro y Daniel Ortega expresaban mensajes solidarios hacia el líder libio Moamar Gadafi, gobiernos de varios países latinoamericanos condenaron la represión estatal contra civiles que exigen reformas en la nación del norte de África.

Ortega, el presidente nicaragüense, expresó que “hemos estado hablando por teléfono (con Gadafi)”, según declaraciones difundidas por la emisora Nueva Radio Ya.

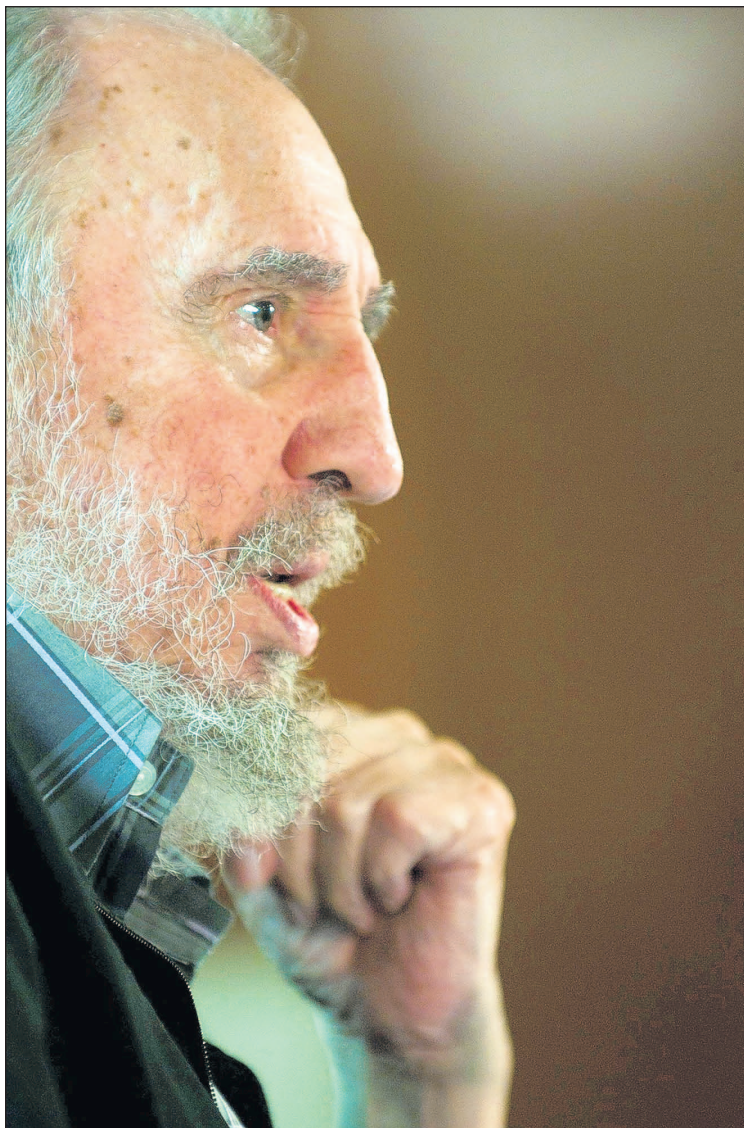
Indicó que las autoridades libias “están buscando cómo dialogar, pero defender la unidad de la nación, que no se vaya a desintegrar el país, que no vaya a darse una anarquía en el país”.

“Y yo le expresaba a Moamar Gadafi, líder de la revolución libia, lo que es elemental: en momentos difíciles se pone a prueba la lealtad”, agregó el mandatario nicaragüense.

“Le transmití la solidaridad del pueblo nicaragüense, a todo el pueblo libio, a él la solidaridad de los sandinistas nicaragüenses... Dios quiera que ahí esa situación se pueda resolver, se pueda superar”, añadió.

En La Habana, Castro publicó en la prensa que existe una campaña mediática en contra de Gadafi. “Se podrá estar o no de acuerdo con Gadafi. El mundo ha sido invadido con todo tipo de noticias, empleando especialmente los medios masivos de información. Habrá que esperar el tiempo necesario para conocer con rigor cuánto hay de verdad o mentira” en lo que se difunde, escribió Castro.

En disonancia con los líderes nicaragüense y cubano, el gobierno de Chile condenó el “uso injustificado de la fuerza en contra de la población civil” y reclamó que las autoridades de Libia establezcan “mecanismos de diálogo y participación ciudadana”. En un comunicado, la cancillería de Chile



En esta foto tomada de la página web del medio de comunicación estatal “Cubadebate”, el líder cubano Fidel Castro conversa con un grupo de intelectuales cubanos y extranjeros que atendieron la Feria Internacional de Libros de La Habana, el 15 de febrero, 2011. En La Habana, Castro publicó en la prensa que existe una campaña mediática en contra de Gadafi. (AP Photo/Roberto Chile, Cubadebate)

pidió el cese “inmediato de la represión” y exhortó a los chilenos a evitar viajar a Libia. En la misma línea, el presidente de Perú, Alan García, decidió romper relaciones diplomáticas con Libia y expresó una “enérgica protesta por la represión desatada por la dictadura libia... contra el pueblo que exige reformas democráticas”.

En Buenos Aires, la cancillería expresó en un comunicado que “el gobierno argentino expresa su profunda preocupación por la grave situación en Libia, lamenta la pérdida de vidas y los actos de violencia acaecidos en los enfrentamientos”.

Hizo votos “para una pronta solución pacífica, dentro de un diálogo democrático constructivo y de absoluto respeto por los derechos humanos y la voluntad del pueblo libio”. En otro comunicado, la cancillería dijo que decidió enviar a más funcionarios a su embajada en Trípoli, para asistir a alrededor de 70 argentinos residentes en Libia y recomendó evitar viajes no indispensables a ese país “hasta tanto la situación retorne a la normalidad”.

En Brasilia, luego de una reunión en esa capital, la ministra francesa de Relaciones Exteriores, Michele Aillot-Marie, y su colega brasileño Antonio Patriota, expresaron su preocupación por la violencia en Libia y acordaron cooperar para retirar a sus ciudadanos que deseen salir de ese país. En La Paz, la cancillería boliviana manifestó su preocupación “por el estado de enfrentamiento interno” en Libia e hizo un llamado al gobierno y al pueblo de esa nación “a realizar todos los esfuerzos necesarios para que a través de medios pacíficos se pueda resolver la crisis política desatada”. □

Salvadoreños confían recibir más ayuda con visita Obama

SAN SALVADOR (AP) - La mayoría de salvadoreños confía que la visita del presidente Barack Obama para finales de marzo permitirá al país recibir más ayuda de los Estados Unidos, según una encuesta divulgada el martes.

El mandatario estadounidense visitará El Salvador el 22 y 23 de marzo, en el marco de una gira que incluirá a Chile y Brasil.

Un sondeo de la empresa JBS opinión Pública realizada para el matutino El Diario de Hoy, detalló que un 41,7% de los salvadoreños respalda la visita porque considera que “se podrían mejorar varios aspectos” de la ayuda

en general.

Otro 14,2% confía que con la visita se logre una nueva extensión al programa migratorio conocido como TPS que permite a unos 217.000 salvadoreños residir y trabajar legalmente en Estados Unidos desde el 2001. Una nueva prórroga de 18 meses, concluirá el 9 de marzo del 2012.

Tras ser consultados sobre si conocían de las razones de la visita de Obama, un 64% de los salvadoreños dijo que desconocía el motivo, mientras otro 36% dijo que sí.

La encuesta fue realizada a 400 salvadoreños de la capital, del 16 al 17 de febrero y tiene un error de 5%. □

Sismo de 5,4 sacude costa nicaragüense del Pacífico

MANAGUA (AP) - Un sismo de magnitud 5,4 sacudió el martes la costa nicaragüense del Pacífico, según un reporte del servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos.

El epicentro del sismo fue localizado a 69,6 kilómetros de profundidad, 160 kilómetros al suroeste de esta capital, en el Océano Pacífico.

El fenómeno ocurrió a las 09:01 de la noche del martes hora local (03:01 GMT), y estuvo relacionado con los procesos tectónicos del choque entre las placas Cocos y Caribe. La sismóloga de turno del Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (Ineter) Virginia Tenorio dijo en declaraciones a la nueva radio ya, que “no hay alerta de tsunami para Nicaragua, que es lo más importante y no ha habido replicas después del sismo”. □



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